# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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# MILLIONS CELEBRATE FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

Despite the weather constraints, voters showed up in large numbers with political parties rushing to project the high turnout as an indication of their potential win in the crucial Assembly polls

**KOCHI**

On Thursday, elections for the Assembly constituencies in Keralam, Assam, and the Union Territory of Puducherry witnessed a significant turnout of voters at polling stations, despite the sweltering summer heat.

The polling for the 140 Assembly constituencies in Keralam featured a tight three-way fight among the CPI(M)-led LDF, the Congress-led UDF, and the BJP-led NDA.

The contest was a two-sided battle involving the BJP-led NDA and an opposition coalition led by the Congress for the 126-member Assam assembly.

In Puducherry, the ruling NDA, which comprises NR Congress and BJP, faced off against the Congress-DMK alliance and actor Vijay's TVK in an effort to maintain its authority in the 30 Assembly.

Counting will take place on May 4, along with Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which go to the polls later this month.

**ELECTION BREAK-UP**

| STATES/UT | SEATS | VOTER TURNOUT |
|---|---|---|
| Assam | 126 | 85.74% |
| Keralam | 140 | 78.26% |
| Puducherry | 30 | 89.87% |

"This election will decide the future of the state; everyone, including our rivals, agrees that Kerala must prosper at the same pace."
—Pinarayi Vijayan, Keralam CM

"The high voter turnout is not ordinary but historic. What we set out to do is not merely fight an election, but to turn it into a movement to protect our civilisational values, our culture and our land."
—Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

## Woman barred over bandaged finger in Keralam

**THRISSUR**

A young woman was initially barred from voting in the Assembly elections at Swami Bodhananda School polling booth in Koorkenchery after officials refused to allow her to use a bandaged left index finger to mark her ballot.

The woman, identified as Akshaya, a resident of Koorkenchery, had injured her left index finger on 6 April while handling a mixer. The injury required 15 stitches, leaving the finger wrapped and immobilised.

"The polling officer said I could not vote because ink cannot be applied on my finger as it was wrapped up," Akshaya said. She first approached the booth at noon and returned with medical reports, but the official refused to permit her to vote.

**Akshaya staged a protest at the booth with her child and other voters. After several hours, she was allowed to cast her vote.**

Akshaya staged a protest at the booth accompanied by her child and other voters. After several hours of protest and submitting an affidavit, Akshaya was eventually allowed to cast her vote. She had first arrived at the booth around 1:30 pm but was only able to vote at 6 pm.

## Several hurt in poll-related violence in Assam

**DISPUR**

Around 30 people were injured and seven arrested in connection with poll-related violence in Assam on Thursday (April 9, 2026), officials said.

A senior police officer said the Congress candidate in Patharkandi constituency in Sribhumi district, Kartik Sena Sinha, allegedly entered the Rangamati polling booth and started an argument with the presiding officer. "He claimed fake electors cast genuine people's votes. When the presiding officer denied the charge, he broke the EVM. Following this, supporters of Congress and the BJP started a fight," he added.

### Saree-clad robot 'Nila' welcomes voters in Puducherry

**PUDUCHERRY:** A humanoid robot named 'Nila', dressed in a saree, greeted voters arriving at the VOC Government School polling station in Puducherry on Thursday, adding a technological touch to the ongoing Assembly elections in the Union Territory. Developed as an event-based interactive machine, the robot was deployed to welcome and assist voters as they came to exercise their franchise. Speaking about the innovation, Kaushik from Robo Mirror said the robot is designed for multiple public engagement settings.

## Gopinath, India's last survivor of maiden Test win, dies at 96

**CHENNAI**



Indian cricket lost one of its oldest and most respected figures on Thursday with the passing of CD Gopinath at the age of 96.

He was the final surviving member of the Indian team that registered the country's first-ever Test victory, following the death of Datta Gaekwad earlier in 2024.

Born in Chennai, then known as Madras, on March 1, 1930, Gopinath represented a classical era of cricket. The right-handed batter earned recognition through consistent performances in domestic cricket for Madras, which eventually paved the way for his selection to the national side.

As per reports, Gopinath passed away peacefully in his sleep at his daughter's residence in Chennai's Adyar.

He made his Test debut during the 1951–52 series against England and made an immediate impression. In his first match, he scored an unbeaten half-century, followed by a solid knock in the same series at the Brabourne Stadium. He played his last international match against Australia at Eden Gardens in 1960.

He also played a key role in India's landmark Test win against England in Chennai. In that match, he contributed a crucial 35 runs and held an important catch to dismiss Brian Statham off the bowling of Vinoo Mankad, who was the star performer, taking 8 wickets for 55 runs in the first innings and 4 wickets in the second, for a total of 12 wickets in the match, helping India secure a historic triumph.

In his international career, Gopinath played eight Tests, scoring 242 runs, including an unbeaten fifty. In first-class cricket, he amassed 4,259 runs in 83 matches, registering nine centuries and 23 half-centuries.

## Sunetra Pawar set to win Baramati bypoll unopposed

**BARAMATI**

In a significant climbdown hours before the nomination withdrawal deadline, the Congress on Thursday announced that it will not contest the Baramati assembly bypoll, paving the way for an uncontested victory for Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar. In a parallel development, Parth Pawar, son late Ajit Pawar, took oath as a Rajya Sabha member on Thursday.

Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal said the party had initially gone ahead with its campaign after fielding Akash More for the Baramati bypoll, but decided to withdraw following sustained outreach from NCP leaders.

"We discussed internally and were of the view that our decision was correct but considering the tradition of Maharashtra and the communication made, the party decided to withdraw our candidate Akash More," he said.

He added, "Ajit Pawar began his political career with the Congress and spent a long time in alliance with the party. Respecting public sentiment and as a tribute to his contributions, we chose not to contest. While we are supporting the NCP in this instance, our ideological fight against the BJP will continue."

It's said that NCP(SP) legislator Rohit Pawar met Sapkal, urging him to pull the party nominee to allow for an uncontesteted victory for Sunetra in the bypoll on April 23.

# 15 ships a day: Hormuz opening comes with caveats

**TEHRAN**

As the fragile truce holds in the Middle East between the US and Iran.

Tehran has made clear it comes with conditions, and that shipping through Hormuz will take a long time to return to the way things were before the war.

**IRGC approval must**

Under the ceasefire terms, Iran will allow no more than 15 vessels per day to transit the Strait of Hormuz, as per a senior Iranian source. Each passage will require Iran's approval and compliance with a specific protocol.

"Under the current ceasefire, fewer than 15 ships per day are permitted to transit the Strait of Hormuz. This movement is strictly contingent upon Iran's approval and the enforcement of a specific protocol. This new regulatory framework, operating under the supervision of the IRGC, has been officially communicated to regional parties. There will be no return to the pre-war status quo," the source said.

The Strait handles roughly a fifth of the world's seaborne crude oil trade.

**Frozen assets must be released within 2 weeks**

Iran has added a financial condition to the ceasefire as well. Tehran is demanding that its blocked overseas assets be unfrozen before the two-week period is up. "The unfreezing of Iran's blocked assets is a critical executive guarantee that must be realised within this two-week timeframe," it said.

Tehran is also insisting that the end of the war be formally recognised through a United Nations Security Council resolution on its own terms, and has warned of consequences if that does not happen.

"If the termination of the war is not codified into a UN Security Council resolution based on our stipulated terms, we are fully prepared to resume combat against the US and the Zionist regime - just as we have over the past 40 days, and with even greater intensity," the source said.

### 'Danger zones': Iran shares map of sea mines

Semi-official news agencies in Iran published a chart Thursday suggesting the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard put sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz during the war, in a message that may be intended to pressure the US as uncertainty hangs over a days-old two-week ceasefire and further negotiations are expected in Pakistan. They showed a large circle marked "danger zone" in Farsi over the Traffic Separation Scheme.

### Army to stay, looking for 'next conquest': Trump

**Washington:** US President Trump has said that the US military is "loading up" and "looking forward" to its next conquest. In a post on Truth Social, he wrote, "Our great military is loading up and resting, looking forward, actually, to its next conquest." He said through the post that all US ships, aircraft and military personnel will remain in Iran with their ammunition and weapons until the "real agreement reached is fully complied with".

**QUICK READ**

### KIA conducts tech trials for contactless intl travel

**BENGALURU:** Kempegowda International Airport has conducted technical trials of a contactless international travel system, marking a step towards biometric-enabled passenger processing for overseas travel. The trials, carried out by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) in collaboration with IndiGo, Digi Yatra Foundation and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), demonstrated an end-to-end digital travel flow.

### Fire erupts at Terminal 1 of Mumbai airport

**MUMBAI:** A fire broke out at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai on Thursday. The fire was reported from the Terminal 1 of the CSMIA at 1835 hrs, the Mumbai Fire Brigade said adding that the fire has been upgraded as a Level-1 fire. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, MFB and Mumbai Police has been mobilised. No injuries or casualties were reported. The airport operations were not affected.

### PARTH PAWAR TAKES OATH AS RS MEMBER

**Mumbai:** Parth Pawar, son of the late NCP leader Ajit Pawar and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, took the oath as a Rajya Sabha member representing Maharashtra on Thursday. Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan administered the oath in New Delhi. Sunetra Pawar was present at the ceremony.

**RESCUE MISSION**

## *Army rescues 135 tourists in 'Op Him Setu'*

**GANGTOK**

The Indian Army has rescued 135 stranded tourists from landslide-hit North Sikkim, where severe weather and road blockages have left hundreds cut off in remote areas.

The rescue operation 'Operation Him Setu', led by the Trishakti Corps under the Eastern Command, is being carried out under challenging conditions, including heavy snowfall and difficult terrain. Officials said nearly 1,000 tourists remain stranded in Lachen, with efforts underway to evacuate them at the earliest.

Dubbed "Operation Him Setu," the mission involves reopening key mountain passes and activating alternate routes to restore connectivity. So far, 32 light vehicles and 10 motorcycles have been moved to safer areas. Army vehicles are also being used to tow civilian vehicles across steep and snow-covered stretches.

Authorities have prioritised medical emergencies, including evacuating elderly and critically ill individuals. In one instance, an 80-year-old ailing tourist was successfully rescued, highlighting the urgency and scale of the operation. The Border Roads Organisation is working closely with the Army, undertaking continuous road clearance and snow removal to facilitate access. Despite harsh weather conditions, teams are striving to restore disrupted routes between Lachen and Chungthang, a strategically sensitive region near the India-China border.

Officials reiterated that the safety of stranded civilians remains the top priority. "Our teams are fully committed to ensuring every individual is brought to safety," an Army spokesperson said.

With weather conditions still unpredictable, authorities have urged tourists to remain patient and follow official advisories as rescue efforts continue in the region.

# Life is purposeless without personality development: Prof. G. B. Shivaraju

**MYSURU**

A personality development workshop was organized at JSS Women's College, Saraswathipuram in Mysuru, under the National Service Scheme (NSS).

The program was conducted for NSS volunteers and coordinators.

Prof. G. B. Shivaraju, a retired professor and advisor at Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru who inaugurated the function, said if personality development does not happen, life loses its purpose.

The true meaning of education is fulfilled through the National Service Scheme. If one shapes their life in accordance with the ideals of NSS, there will be no failure in life.

He said leading a socially responsible life is true personality development. The inner purity is more important than outward appearance. Today's youth should cultivate a life of selflessness.

By becoming responsible individuals, they should contribute to society within their capacity. The institutions run by the Suttur Math are striving to build strong character among students by imparting quality education.

B.. Niranjanamurthy, Assistant Director of the Education Department of JSS Mahavidyapeetha College delivering his presidential address said, if one actively participates in NSS, it helps shape one's life.

NSS provides immense opportunities to achieve success in any field. The NSS plays a key role in building disciplined lives and that today's youth should act in a way that upholds the traditions of India.

Principal Dr. Rechanna, NSS program officers Dr. A. G. Dharmesh and Anusha N were present. NSS volunteers and coordinators from various colleges affiliated with the University of Mysore participated in the program.

At the beginning of the program, Kum. Dhatri and team presented a prayer. Kum. Sushmita, a third-year B.Com student, welcomed the gathering. Kum. Monika, a first-year B.Com student, delivered the vote of thanks, and Kum. Sangeetha compered the event.

**After the inaugural session, three lectures were conducted:**

Nagaraj Beedaganahalli, lecturer from a government pre-university college in Saligrama, spoke on "Personality Development."

C. Nandeesh Kumar, Inspector from the Cyber Crime Police Station, spoke on "Prevention of Cyber Crimes."

Seshadri, Sub-Inspector from Saraswathipuram Police Station, spoke on "Drug Abuse: Effects and Preventive Measures."

# Railway Staff's Honesty: Lady passenger found lost handbag

**MYSURU**

In a commendable display of alertness and integrity, railway staff successfully recovered and returned a lost handbag belonging to a passenger.

Kaveri B. Pai, 67, was travelling from Srirangapatna to KSR Bengaluru Railway Station on Train No. 16228 with a confirmed reservation in Coach B-2. While alighting at Bengaluru, she inadvertently left behind her handbag.

The handbag, which contained cash and jewellery, was noticed by Travelling Ticket Examiner Kalabai, who was on duty on the same train operating from SMET to Mysuru. Demonstrating exemplary honesty and responsibility, she secured the bag and handed it over to the Chief Ticket Inspector in Mysuru.

Later, the handbag was returned to its rightful owner at Mysuru in the presence of Chief Ticket Inspectors R. Chandrashekar and V. Nandakumar.

Upon receiving her belongings intact, Kaveri Pai expressed immense happiness and extended her heartfelt gratitude to the railway officials for their prompt action and dedication.

The incident highlights the commitment and integrity of Indian Railways staff in safeguarding passengers' belongings and delivering exemplary service.

# " Mysuru and Dharwad are identical in art and culture"

**MYSURU**

If achievers are identified and honoured, they will be able to contribute even more to society, said actor Sunil Puranik.

He was speaking on Wednesday at the Rotary Hall in the city after presenting the Silicon Media Award organised by Rotary Mysore Midtown to Prajavani newspaper photographer Anoop Ragh T. and RJ Sunil.

Puranik said Mysuru and Dharwad are cultural cities of the state. These cities have made significant contributions to the growth of literature, art, and culture.

The artists, photographers, and journalists here have enriched the cultural landscape.

It is commendable that such individuals are being encouraged through awards.

On the occasion, Rotary Mysore Midtown President K.L. Rakesh Babu, Secretary Bhaskar Sainik, Dinesh, M.S. Naveen Chandra, S. Raghavendra, and Bhemesh Aradhya were present.

# UoM Summer Coaching Camp: Young Athletes feted

**MYSURU**

A medal ceremony was organized at the University Athletics Summer Coaching Camp, where young and talented athletes were recognised for their performance and dedication.

The camp, held under the guidance of coaches from the University of Mysore, saw participation from children across two age categories—8 to 12 years and 13 to 18 years. A total of six promising athletes were selected and honoured with medals, with two winners chosen from each category based on their performance.

The medals were sponsored by athletics coach Ravi T. S., who is also serving as the camp in-charge. Assistant Coach Manju played a key role in training and mentoring the participants.

On the occasion, Latha, a designer, supported the initiative by sponsoring fruits for the children at the camp, encouraging their health and well-being.

Parents of the participants were present during the ceremony and appreciated the efforts of the organisers and coaches in nurturing young sporting talent.

# "Children Must Develop Environmental Awareness"

**MYSURU**

Comparing children's minds to delicate flowers that need careful nurturing, contractor Govindegowda emphasized that values are equally essential in their lives. He called upon children to develop environmental awareness.

Speaking after distributing prizes at the valedictory function of a summer camp held at the Jayalakshmipuram Service Centre of the international spiritual organization Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, he noted that just as association influences character, today's children need good company (satsang). Referring to Mahatma Gandhi, he said Gandhi too made mistakes due to bad company but later realized them, wrote a letter to his father expressing remorse, and eventually transformed into Gandhi.

Rajyogini Brahma Kumari Sandhyaji, said that just as a growing tree is shaped from its tender stage, children must imbibe the ideals and principles of great personalities who have served the nation and grow into noble individuals. Such summer camps provide valuable inspiration to children.

# " Knowledge power more important than physical or financial strength"

**MYSURU**

Padma Shri awardee and noted bibliophile Ankegowda said that in the present times, knowledge power is more important than physical strength or financial strength.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 26th anniversary celebrations and the presentation of the 2025 Hoysala State Awards, organized by Hoysala Kannada Sangha and Savigannada Balaga at the District Kannada Sahitya Parishat Bhavan on Sunday.

He said that in earlier times, physical strength alone was considered sufficient to survive. Later, it was believed that money was enough to lead a life. However, those times are gone, and today, one can survive anywhere with knowledge. Parents must ensure that their children are well educated and become knowledgeable individuals.

Ankegowda added that he alone was not responsible for reaching the level of receiving the Padma Shri award, and acknowledged the support of many friends. The 78-year-old said that he has been collecting books for the past 52 years and now has around 2 million books in his library. With a desire to pass on knowledge to future generations, he said he lends books free of cost without taking even a single rupee from anyone.

He also mentioned that he has all the books required for students preparing for IAS and KAS examinations. Students who study sincerely from 4:00 AM to 7:30 AM can pass any examination. However, people must avoid speaking ill of others and instead cultivate goodness. wThe prestigious Hoysala State Awards for 2025 were presented to 15 achievers who have contributed to the state's language and culture.

The awards were given away by Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. P. Shivaraju and senior social worker Raghuram Vajapeyi. Veena exponent V. Nanjundaswamy delivered the felicitation address.

# Two-day "Jawari Kaalu Mela" in Mysuru from tomorrow

**MYSURU**

To introduce the taste, importance, and cultural value of indigenous pulses to Mysuru consumers, Sahaja Samruddha, in association with M3M Foundation and Sahaja Seeds, is organizing a two-day "Jawari Kalu Mela" on April 11 and 12 at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry in Mysuru.

Farmer groups from different parts of Karnataka will showcase more than 100 varieties of traditional pulses. Visitors can witness rare and disappearing varieties such as red toor, sinagalu, dabbe, gadde avare, multicolored beans, green and black gram, spotted cowpea, black horse gram, field beans, and different varieties of chickpeas. Seeds will also be available for purchase.

Medicinally valuable varieties like black chickpeas, known to help manage kidney stones, will also be featured. Visitors can purchase traditional small-grain red toor dal, cowpea dal, and native green gram.

The Karnataka Pulse Development Board will organize the sale of the geographically indicated "Gulbarga Toor Dal." The popular "Bheema Brand" will be available at affordable prices. 'Akkadi' is a traditional cropping system in which ragi, jowar, or groundnut is cultivated along with multiple crops simultaneously. This method, popularly known as Navadhanya, is a matter of pride for Karnataka. In this system, traditional pulses such as avare (hyacinth beans), toor (pigeon pea), alasande (cowpea), and green gram are grown together with jowar.

These pulses, which add flavor and nutrition to daily dishes like sambar and palya, have enriched our culinary culture. Rich in protein, fiber, and micronutrients, pulses contribute significantly to good health. They are also well adapted to local climatic conditions and help improve soil fertility, acting as natural green manure. These leguminous crops can rightly be called nature's own fertilizer factories. Unfortunately, with the increasing cultivation of hybrid maize, tobacco, and other commercial crops, the traditional Akkadi system is disappearing, and pulse cultivation is being neglected.

Moreover, the hybrid pulses available in markets lack taste and nutritional value. Consumption of such chemically grown produce is adversely affecting consumers' health, often without their awareness. The mela will be inaugurated by National Award-winning actress Akshatha Pandavapura. Representatives of women's self-help groups engaged in pulse processing from Kundgol and Shiggaon taluks will attend as chief guests.

Kisan Mall will offer organic products, millets, indigenous seeds, fruits and vegetables, and value-added products.

More than 25 stalls will feature a wide range of food items, agricultural tools, bio-pesticides, and tubers.

The "Jawari Kalu Mela" will be open to the public from 9:00 AM to 8:30 PM on both days. Entry is free. For more details, contact Kisan Mall at 7090009944.

# PROUD ACHIEVERS OF SADVIDYA INSTITUTIONS

Achievers....rank holders, K.Chitra Spoorthy, Sanjana S, Bhakti A Jain, Rishith Gowa M.N., Maanya R and Vidya M, are seen with Prof M.S.K.Narahari Babu, president of Sadvidya PU College and teachers after the annoncement of 2nd PU annual examination in Mysuru on Thursday.

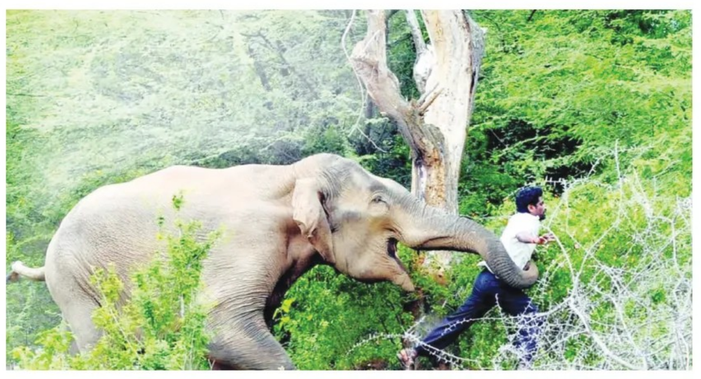
## CREDIT TO TEACHERS

Prof M.S.K.Narahari Babu said 13 students of Sadvidya Schools have bagged various ranks in the 2nd PU annual examinations in all three streams, Science, Commerce and Arts.

He said in the science stream, the schools have bagged the ranks from third to fourth. The efforts of teachers and lecturers are worth mentioning as they worked hard to help students to bag ranks. The management also provided all the facilities to both teachers and students to take the name of the instutuition to new heights. The credit goes to teachers, he added.

Rank holders of the Sadvidya Semi-Residential School, Dhanvee, Maria, Disha, Amulya, Poorvitha and Sanjana of Sadvidya Semi Residential School.

# Impractical To Sterilize Wild Animals



Karnataka's Forest Minister's recent announcement to undertake sterilization of wild animals as one of

the measures to minimize human wild animal conflict has been criticized by a large section of experts. While a small section supports it and see it as a solution for the conservation of wild animals and the habitats, a larger section finds it difficult to implement in huge populations. The villages on the fringes of the forests are facing human death and injuries from elephants andleopards as well as crop losses when elephant herds trample and destroy. The increasing habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation owing to developmental activities especially linear infrastructures have resulted in such wild animals moving out of the reserves and straying in human areas. Forest

department has undertaken to construct barriers all along the periphery of the notified forests in highconflict zone, to contain elephants within the reserve. But the areas where habitats are dominated by invasive species and poor regeneration of bamboo and other palatable species and frequent wildfires, can't hold elephants and wild ungulates within it. Even the corridors that were used by wild animals for

their movement have been occupied by human being. Occupation of forest lands by local communities have made the situation worse. The long term solution to minimize conflict is to make sure that encroachments are evicted and the habitats and corridors are restored. There is no political will to take up such measures and bureaucrats and politicians are diverting the attention of the people and suggesting to sterilize the wild elephants and leopards found in human areas. The capture of elephants, leopards and tigers involved in theconflict is common, but what is the percentage of elephants/ leopards captured? Karnataka's wild elephant population is nearly 6,000, but not even 100 of them are captured in a year, percentage of

female elephants in it is quite low- may be 30 to 40. If we sterilize these, it may have insignificant contribution as compared to nearly 4,000 female elephants in the state. In no way it can significantly cut

the population growth and reduce the conflict with the human. It is a different story if state decides to capture all of them and sterilize. It is never going to be practically implementable.Leopards are captured in still smaller proportion, and there is no big deal in sterilizing and releasing such small number in wild as it may hardly have any impact in controlling the population. My opinion is not

against sterilization; it is against the practicality of it. India has nearly 20,000 leopards and Karnataka may have around thousand. Moreover, if we start capturing such high number, the public may protest when we release them back in wild. Already there are large number of leopards housed in Zoo facilities. I also find it difficult to recommend to the state to restore the habitats and corridors, as diversion of forests and wildlife habitats for the development projects goes on unabated. The situation is going to

worsen and the conflict is bound to rise. The sterilization project would remain on paper.

# AAI Issues Advisory to Protect Mysore Airport Airspace

**MYSURU**

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued a crucial public advisory aimed at safeguarding the airspace surrounding Mysore Airport.

As per the Government of India Gazette Notification GSR 751(E), all construction activities within a 56 km radius of the airport must obtain a mandatory No Objection Certificate (NOC) for height clearance before commencing any work.

This directive is part of a broader effort to ensure safe aircraft operations and prevent obstacles in critical flight paths.

### Unauthorized Constructions Detected in Red Zone

During a recent inspection, the Aerodrome Safeguarding Committee identified several unauthorized constructions in Mandakalli village, which falls under the designated Red Zone—a highly sensitive area covering aircraft approach and take-off paths.

AAI has expressed serious concern over these violations and emphasized strict compliance with aviation safety norms.

### KEY GUIDELINES ISSUED BY AAI

- No structure or building can be constructed within the 56 km radius without prior approval through the NOCAS portal.
- Violations of prescribed height limits will attract action under the Aircraft (Demolition of Obstructions caused by Buildings and Trees etc.) Rules, 1994, including demolition.
- Municipal and Town Planning authorities must not approve any construction in the Red Zone without a valid AAI-issued NOC.

### AREAS FALLING UNDER THE RED ZONE

The restricted zone includes the following areas: Mandakalli, Kadakola, Sindhuvalli, Dadadalli, Byathalli, Hosahundi, Marase, Makanahundi, Srinagar, Gejjagalli, Madaragalli, Gorur, Koodanahalli, Bandipalya, Uttanahalli, Hadajana, Kuppaluru, parts of JP Nagar, and Ramabai Nagara.

These areas fall within critical aviation safety corridors and require strict adherence to height regulations.

### INFO BOX: What You Must Know

- **56 km Rule:** Height clearance NOC mandatory within airport radius
- **Apply Online:** https://nocas2.aai.aero
- **No NOC :** No Construction
- **Illegal Structures:** Liable for demolition under 1994 Rules
- **Purpose:** Ensure safe aircraft movement & passenger safety
- **CONTACT BOX:** Get Assistance
- **Office:** Airport Director, Mysore Airport
- **Organization:** Airports Authority of India
- **Portal:** NOCAS (Online Height Clearance System)

# SOLVE DRINKING WATER CRISIS ON WARFOOTING: MLA GTD DIRECTS OFFICIALS

**MYSURU**

Taking serious note of the looming summer water crisis, Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda directed officials to ensure that residents do not face drinking water shortages in the coming months.

He instructed that water must be supplied at least once every two to three days and that additional tanker supply should be arranged wherever necessary.

Speaking at a review meeting held on Thursday at the Mysuru City Corporation office, attended by officials from the Corporation, Hootagalli City Municipal Council, and Town Panchayats of Rammanahalli, Kadakola, Bogadi, and Srirampura, the MLA stressed the need for immediate and coordinated action. Until the completion of the Unduvadi drinking water project, water must be supplied through existing sources such as the Kabini, KRS, and Melapura schemes.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, Devegowda warned that summer could aggravate water scarcity and officials must identify problem areas and ensure water supply through tankers where pipeline connectivity is insufficient.

Any pipeline-related issues must be resolved immediately. If needed, he will address them at his level or escalate them to the District Administration.

The MLA specifically called for measures to supply water to localities such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar, Vasanthnagar, Venkateshwara Layout, and Manasinagar. Noting that residents of Vasanthnagar have been paying taxes for the past three years, they must receive water at least twice a week. There are complaints from residents of D-Block in Srirampura, where borewells have dried up, leaving people without water.

"I am receiving calls from morning till night regarding water shortages," he said, adding that similar complaints have been reported from Bogadi and other areas. He urged officials to utilize the allocated share of Kabini water efficiently and ensure equitable distribution.

Devegowda opined that preventing a drinking water crisis is a shared responsibility and the officials must provide connections wherever pipelines from Kabini and KRS projects are available and to take up new pipeline works if required. There must be a prompt response to underground drainage (UGD) complaints and warned officials against delays. "Should we remind you every time to attend complaints?" he asked sharply.

He further directed that Vijay Nagar 4th Stage must receive its allocated 4 MLD of water daily and that the Corporation must distribute water to all local bodies as per allocation norms.

Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy cautioned that there are forecasts of deficient rainfall, which could lead to serious water issues in June and July. Officials must drill new borewells and re-drill defunct ones. Approval has already been granted for procuring additional water tankers and supplying water to needy areas based on demand.

### DC PULLS UP OFFICIALS

Expressing displeasure, Reddy reminded officials that under the Kabini project agreement, out of 60 MLD water, 40 MLD is allocated to the City Corporation and 20 MLD to local bodies. It is unacceptable that water meant for local bodies is not being supplied and urged officials to ensure proper distribution. There is a need for internal planning within the Corporation to ensure water reaches all designated areas. "If you don't plan properly, the problem will persist," he warned.

The DC also raised serious concerns over poor sanitation in Hootagalli, KHB Colony, Belavadi, Koorgalli, Vijay Nagar 4th Stage, and Hinkal areas and directed authorities to conduct cleanliness drives every 15 days across Hootagalli CMC and surrounding Town Panchayats. "Seeing heaps of garbage on the city outskirts is shameful," he remarked, adding that long-pending waste must be cleared immediately. Approval will be given for hiring JCBs, tractors, and sanitation workers if proposals are submitted.

**All garbage must be cleared within 15 days. Failure to do so will invite strict action.**

He instructed officials to take strict action against vehicles dumping waste illegally, especially along the Hosahundi–Uthanahalli road. Seize such vehicles and park them in police stations. Night patrols twice a week can help curb this menace.

The MLA also pointed out illegal dumping along the road leading to JSS Ayurveda College at the foothills of Chamundi Hills and wanted officials to impose fines on violators as it would act as a deterrent.

Responding to this, the DC said complaints have been received from the public and on social media. He directed officials to immediately verify jurisdiction—whether Alanahalli Gram Panchayat, Kadakola Town Panchayat, or the City Corporation—and take prompt action.

> "Water must be supplied to outer localities under the Kabini project. If required, procure additional tankers for emergency supply. Proper planning of distribution will solve half the problem."
> —G.T. Devegowda, MLA

> "Even before official notification, the Mysuru City Corporation must function like a Greater Corporation and be prepared to handle future challenges."
> —G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, District Collector

### OFFICIALS PRESENT

The meeting was attended by Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Sheikh Tanveer Asif, Superintending Engineer Manjunath, Hootagalli CMC Commissioner B.N. Chandrashekhar, Town Panchayat Chief Officers H.M. Suresh, Sujay, Mahesh H.R., Deepa, KUWSDB Executive Engineer Mohammed Asif Iqbal, UGD Division Executive Engineer A.M. Mohammed Mustafa, Executive Engineer Nagaraju, and other officials.

# Union Ministers meet Mysuru Royal Family; Discuss State and National Development

**MYSURU**

A delegation of prominent political leaders led by Union Ministers, H.D.Kumaraswamy and V Somanna paid a courtesy visit to the Mysore Palace and met Rajmata Pramoda Devi Wadiyar. During the meeting, discussions were held on various issues related to the development of the state and the nation. Among those present were Mysuru–Kodagu Member of Parliament Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna, former minister C. S. Puttaraju, and former MP Pratap Simha.

The interaction is seen as part of ongoing engagements focusing on regional and national progress.

# METRO NETWORK: B'LURU SLIPS TO 3RD SEAT

With the addition of roughly 10 km new corridors, Mumbai's operational network has now crossed the 100-km mark, trailing only the Delhi Metro, which remains the largest in the country with 416 km and 303 stations

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Namma Metro has slipped to third place in terms of operational network length, losing its position as the country's second-largest system to Mumbai Metro.

The shift comes after Mumbai Metro commissioned new corridors, including the Dahisar–Kashigaon stretch and the first section of Line 2B (Mandale to Diamond Garden), extending connectivity to Thane district and linking the eastern suburbs. By comparison, Namma Metro operates a 96-km network with 83 stations, of which about 19 km, part of the Yellow Line was added in the past year.

Namma Metro began operations in 2011 with a 7-km elevated stretch from Byappanahalli to MG Road. Over the past 15 years, it has expanded to about 89km, averaging roughly 6km of additions per year.

In contrast, Mumbai Metro, which started operations in 2014, has now overtaken Bengaluru's network in terms of operational length. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has often faced criticism for missing project deadlines in a city where private vehicle numbers are rising rapidly. The total number of vehicles crossed 1.25 crore in February 2026, with nearly 2,100 new vehicles added to the roads daily.

BMRCL took at least three years to open the Yellow Line due to construction delays and the non-availability of the required number of coaches. As a result, trains are currently running at a 9-minute frequency during peak hours, with passengers expected to wait a few more months for full-fledged operations.7-km stretch in next phase. In the next phase, BMRCL plans to open a 7-km stretch of the Pink Line from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere on Bannerghatta Road. Unlike the Yellow Line, there is no shortage of coaches for this elevated section. The corporation has already received five train sets and is in the process of obtaining clearance for the rolling stock, aiming for a partial opening by mid-2026.BMRCL is also planning to operationalise the Blue Line stretch from Silk Board to KR Pura by 2026. However, the remaining section from KR Pura to Kempegowda International Airport has been pushed to 2027. Once these lines are operational, Bengaluru's Metro network is expected to reach nearly 175km in length.

## QUICK READ

### Governor confers PhD degree on Salur Sri

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The devotees hope that Dr Sri Shanta Mallikarjuna Swamy of Salur Math will receive the PhD degree certificate and take the fame of the Math to greater heights. At the 12th and 13th convocation ceremony of Karnataka Sanskrit University held at the Jnanajyothi Hall, Governor conferred the PhD degree certificate on Dr Sri Shanta Mallikarjuna Swamy, the incumbent of Sri Salur Brihanmath Peetha of Sri Male Mahadeshwara Hills, from the Chancellor of the University, Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot.. Under the guidance of Karnataka Sanskrit University professors and Kundur Math incumbent Dr Sri Sarath Chandra Swami, he studied a manuscript on the subject of Anshumadagamam Sampadanattakka Adhyayam in the Vedanta Department and submitted a research paper to the university.

### Yogesh Gowda murder: final verdict on April 15

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The final verdict in the Dharwad district panchayat member Yogesh Gowda murder case has been postponed to April 15. The special court of public representatives that heard the case had said that it would pronounce the order today. All 21 accused, including Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni, were present in the court in view of the pronouncement of the order. Before going to court, Vinay Kulkarni had told reporters that he has faith in God and believes that truth will always prevail. I have faith in the court. It is not right to speak in front of the media when the case is in court. I had said that the court should announce the verdict.

### Woman commits suicide by jumping from 3rd floor

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

In a shocking incident, a woman committed suicide by jumping from the third floor of the building at Madanayakanahalli in Bengaluru North taluk. The deceased has been identified as Lakshmamma (53), who had been suffering from cardiac ailments for the past three years. Tired of being seriously ill, he committed suicide by jumping from the terrace late at night. The body was shifted to Nelamangala General Hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered at Madanayakanahalli police station.

## Formulate model SOP for trekking safety in K'taka: Min

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Forest Minister Ishwara B Khandre has instructed to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that will serve as a model for the country in terms of safety of trekkers visiting the hill ranges of the state.

Khandre has issued this written notice to the Chief Wildlife Warden in the wake of the incident where a woman named Sharanya from Kerala spent 3 days in the forest during a trek to Tadiandamol in Chikkamagaluru district and the girl went missing near the Manikyadhara waterfall in the Chandradrona mountain range.

Similar to the e-Pastu app already developed by the Forest Department and the M. Stripes app used in tiger reserves, if this app is temporarily installed on the mobile phones of trekkers during the trekking period, it will be easier to find anyone who strays. The Forest Minister has therefore directed that steps be taken to develop the app and provide group insurance to trekkers.

In addition, nature guides who guide trekkers should be provided with wireless sets, and Khandre also suggested that guides who take trekkers with them be held accountable.

The girl has been missing for two days, but no trace has been found. A complaint has already been registered at the Gramantara police station, and the police, forest department and fire department personnel are continuously engaged in search operations.

Forest Minister Ishwar B. Khandre has already issued instructions to conduct an emergency rescue operation. He has ordered the skilled personnel of the Forest Department to provide full cooperation to the district administration and the police department in finding the girl.

He opined that even though the area does not fall under the direct jurisdiction of the Forest Department, the department's assistance is needed on a humanitarian basis as the geographical situation there is steep hills and dense forests. The Minister has strictly directed the top officials of the department to use cutting-edge technology like thermal drones to intensify the search operation and to work in coordination with local authorities to locate the girl at the earliest.

On Thursday, the team of personnel is continuing the search for the girl. The Forest Department is on one side, the Police Department is on the other side, and the Fire Department is on the other side, namely the Manikyadara, Galikere, Kemmanagundi area, and the surrounding areas where the girl went missing.

## 'Don't pay attention to auto gas shortage rumours'

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The government has come to the notice of auto owners and drivers standing in long queues in front of the gas stations for the past few days, based on false information that there is a shortage of gas at various auto gas stations in the state. The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has clarified that the reports published in some media outlets in this regard are just rumors and the public need not worry.

There has been a minor shortage in only a few private auto gas supply companies, and to rectify this, large quantities of gas are being supplied by state-owned oil companies Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC).

Earlier, these three companies were supplying an average of 56.67 metric tonnes of auto gas. However, to meet the current demand, the supply has been increased significantly and currently an average of 83.58 metric tonnes of gas is being supplied to retail outlets every day.

If we look at the figures from April 2 to April 6, it is seen that there is stability in the supply. These three major companies have successfully supplied 87.78 metric tonnes on April 2, 86.05 metric tonnes on April 3, 84.80 metric tonnes on April 4, a maximum of 94.11 metric tonnes on April 5 and 83.58 metric tonnes on April 6.

Therefore, the government has appealed to the auto owners and drivers of the state not to believe any such false rumours and not to stand in line in front of the fuel stations out of fear. The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs said in a statement that gas supply is being provided systematically and the public is requested to cooperate with the department.

## BNCC chief inspects road near Jakkur lake bund

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Commissioner Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar of Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) conducted a site inspection at the Jakkur Lake bund area and issued necessary instructions to officials regarding the construction of a new road.

The proposed road project, with a width of 18 meters (60 feet), will extend for approximately 3365 meters, connecting Kogilu Road through Sampigehalli, Jakkur, and Gasti Kempanahalli, up to the railway parallel road near Jakkur Lake bund.

In this regard, a Form-1 notification had already been issued for land acquisition under the provisions of RMP–2015. However, due to the presence of several existing residential structures along the original alignment, it has been observed that a revision of the road alignment is necessary.

The Commissioner instructed the Chief Engineer to obtain the revised alignment map and complete documentation from the B-SMILE engineers and submit a proposal to the competent authority for approval. The revised alignment proposes construction of the new RMP road adjacent to the existing 15-meter-wide road, along the buffer zone boundary of Jakkur Lake.

It has been noted that, as per the revised alignment, landowners have expressed willingness to provide land for the road by availing Transferable Development Rights (TDR) as compensation.

## Census–2027: BNCC calls for accurate data collection

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar visited and inspected the Census–2027 training centre being conducted at Atria University, Yelahanka, under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC).

During the visit, the Commissioner addressed enumerators and supervisors, emphasizing that accuracy of data is of utmost importance, and instructed them to ensure that only correct and reliable information is collected without any errors.

He stated that the data collected through the census serves as a crucial foundation for the country's development, and highlighted that even today, data from the 2011 Census continues to be widely used, underscoring its significance.

The Commissioner further instructed that enumerators, supervisors, and charge officers must perform their duties diligently without giving any excuses and complete the assigned work within the stipulated time.

He also warned that negligence in census duties would attract legal action and urged all personnel to take pride and responsibility in contributing to this important nation-building exercise.

During his visit to the training centre, the Commissioner urged enumerators and supervisors to actively support and participate in the Self-Enumeration process. He also appealed to the public to take part in Self-Enumeration and complete their census details within the stipulated time.

Training is being conducted for 4 charge units at Atria University, with a total of 686 enumerators and supervisors participated.

Later, the Commissioner visited the ongoing sports meet for pourakarmikas at the Hoysala Grounds, Yelahanka, where he reviewed the arrangements and observed the events.

On this occasion, Joint Commissioners Mohammed Nayeem Momin and Pallavi, along with charge officers and other officials, were present.

## Tiff over sudden turn, youths assault bizman

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A 52-year-old businessman was allegedly assaulted in a road rage incident in Kodigehalli, prompting police to launch a manhunt for the main suspect. According to a complaint filed by Ajit Singh, police have detained a few individuals while efforts continue to trace the prime attacker.

The incident occurred when Singh was approaching his apartment in Tatanagar. A heated argument broke out after Singh allegedly made a sudden right turn. Two youths on a motorcycle, coming from the opposite direction, objected, accusing him of failing to use an indicator. The altercation quickly escalated, with both sides exchanging abuses. Police said the youths repeatedly questioned Singh about his local status and demanded identity proof.

Though Singh responded in fluent Kannada, they continued to ask if he was a non-local, an officer said, adding that more youths soon joined the group.

## BCCC takes up special cleanliness drive

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

As part of the special cleanliness drive under Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, cleaning activities have been carried out at flyovers and underpasses within the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC), informed Commissioner Rajendra Cholan.

To maintain cleanliness and transform the city into a waste-free city corporation area, and to secure a better national ranking in Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation has undertaken a special cleanliness drive. As per the already prepared action plan, this initiative marks the 5th phase of the campaign.

Under this phase, 20 flyovers along with surrounding areas and 8 underpasses were identified and cleaned. Most flyovers are located near schools, colleges, major junctions, and high-footfall areas. Ensuring daily cleanliness of these locations and maintaining hygiene in surrounding areas is essential for urban sanitation. Keeping this in view, the selected locations were thoroughly cleaned as part of the campaign.

Approximately 495 personnel took part in the cleanliness drive, including 334 civic workers, 161 auto tipper drivers and sanitation staff. A total of around 4 tons of waste was removed during the operation.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar. DGM Bhimesh Nayak, AGMs of respective divisions, PKs, and auto tipper staff also actively participated in the campaign.

SYSTEM FAILURE

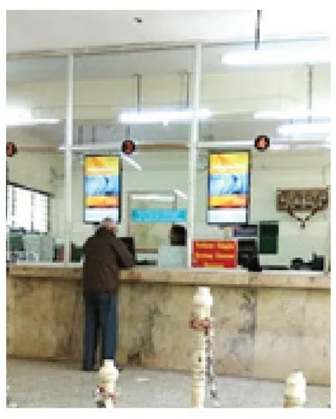
## *Network issue shuts down rail reservation office*

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

For railway passengers living in the neighbourhoods of south Bengaluru, the reservation office at Banashankari was the go-to spot for ticket booking.

However, the office remained shut Wednesday, disappointing especially tatkal aspirants.Located on the first floor of the BDA complex in Banashankari, the office provides offline railway ticket reservation to passengers who live far away from major railway stations in the city.

"Reservation office at Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru, closed for 5-6 days. No update on resumption. Nearest tatkal centre ~5 km away, making access difficult," an anxious user posted on X. Another user states the AC tatkal section was completely locked, and while the sleeper class tatkal and common reservation counters were open, they were not operational. Under the waiting sheds rested stray dogs, hinting that the office hasn't been used for at least some days.



According to the South Western Railway (SWR), the office has not functioned for over six days due to an issue with BSNL network within the complex. "Reservation counters at Banashankari BDA complex reservation office are not working since BSNL link is down as the optical fibre cable has been cut. Restoration of the same is under progress," an SWR official clarified.

Abdul Aleem, a resident of JP Nagar, said: "There needs to be proper communication in case of such incidents, otherwise, it might cause inconvenience to many who depend on the counter." Maintenance teams have been working in the office since Tuesday, though it was not restored till Wednesday evening. SWR expects the counters to be functional from Friday and has advised passengers to make use of the reservation office at Jayanagar. "We are actively working to resolve this issue and will keep you updated with any progress and improvements," BSNL stated.

## IAF officer's house burgled

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

An Indian Air Force officer's house was burgled while his family was away attending his promotion ceremony in Hyderabad. According to a complaint filed by warrant officer Mruthunjaya Narayan Singh, a resident of Kammagondanahalli and posted at the Air Force Station, Hyderabad, Singh was promoted on April 1. His wife and children had locked the house on the afternoon of March 31 and left for Hyderabad by train to attend the event. On the morning of April 2, neighbours noticed signs of a break-in and informed Singh's wife. Before leaving, the family had packed their valuables, including gold and silver ornaments, in a box placed under a cot. The family returned to the city the same evening by flight and found both the main door and the bedroom door broken open. Household items were scattered across the rooms, suggesting a thorough search by the intruders. They discovered that gold ornaments,including two lockets, two pairs of earrings, and a chain, along with around 500 grams of silver articles, were missing. A case was registered .

## QUICK READ

### Turuvanur PU college achieves 93.24% pass rate

**CHITRADURGA**

Turuvanur Government Pre-University College recorded a 93.24% pass rate in the 2025-26 Second PUC Annual Exams. Out of 74 students, 69 passed. In Arts, P. Vani topped with 578 marks (96.33%), in Science, T. Lavanya scored 571 (95.16%), and C.D. Lakshmi 569 (94.83%). The college saw 15 highest ranks, 51 upper ranks, and 5 second ranks. Principal Dr. B. Krishnappa credited the success to well-planned annual schedules, continuous guidance, parent-teacher engagement, home visits, and regular unit and preliminary tests. The combined efforts helped students improve performance and achieve excellent results.

### Chikkaballapur marks Dr. Ambedkar's 135th birthday

**CHIKKABALLAPUR**

Chikkaballapur will celebrate the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on April 14 at Kannada Bhavan. The day begins with a ceremony at his residence on M.G. Road at 10 am, followed by a procession from the Jai Bhim Memorial Hostel to Kannada Bhavan. The event will be inaugurated by Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar and attended by Social Welfare Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa. MLA P.E. Pradeep Eshwar will preside, and several MPs, MLAs, government officials, and local leaders will participate. Professor Krishna Raj will deliver the keynote speech, highlighting Ambedkar's contributions to equality, education, and social justice.

### Mandya scheduled power outage affects many areas

**MANDYA**

Residents of Mandya will face a planned power outage on April 11 from 9 am to 6 pm. The disruption is due to maintenance work on the 66/11 KV Hebbakavadi OAR line by the Mandya Power Distribution Center. Affected areas include Subhash Nagar, Ashok Nagar, V.V. Road, Hosahalli, Vinayak Layout, Nehru Nagar, Dwarakanagar, Gandhinagar, Sri Rama Nagar, Kaveri Nagar phases 1 and 2, Chandra Darshan, Chamundeshwari Nagar, and surrounding localities. Rural villages like Karasavadi, Mangala, Haniyambadi, Chiranahalli, Hebbakavadi, Kottatti, and Sulukere will also be affected, said S. Anita Bhai, Executive Engineer, Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation. Residents are advised to plan accordingly.

# New Devanahalli police station opens with modern facilities

Dr. Parameshwar inaugurated CSR-funded buildings, praised police conduct, announced 1,800 new constables, and resolved PSI recruitment scam issues

**DEVANAHALLI**

A new and well-equipped police station and ACP office were inaugurated in Devanahalli, marking a major upgrade after many years.

Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar inaugurated the buildings constructed at a cost of Rs 4.20 crore under the CSR fund of Prestige Group near the new bus stand. He said the police department must continue to serve people in a friendly and responsible manner.

He shared feedback from the public, noting that police personnel behaved politely and guided visitors properly during recent events. He appreciated the department for improving its public approach.

The Minister announced that around 1,800 constables will be recruited soon to strengthen the police force. He also said issues related to the PSI recruitment scam have been resolved, and new recruits have already completed training.

Parameshwar highlighted that the state has seen no major communal incidents in the past three years, including in sensitive coastal areas. He added that steps have been taken to improve working conditions, including housing facilities under the Police Griha scheme.Officials said the new building has modern infrastructure to improve police services and provide a better environment for staff and visitors.

Local leaders and officials, including ministers and police officers, attended the inauguration and expressed confidence that the new facility will enhance law and order management in the region.

The project aims to improve efficiency, public interaction, and overall policing standards in Devanahalli.

# Officials launch crackdown on drugs

**Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh ordered strict action against drug abuse, directing schools, police, and officials to monitor youth, supply detection kits, ensure medical inspections, and prevent trafficking**

**CHITRADURGA**

Expressing concern over the rising drug abuse in the district, Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh has ordered strict action against drug trafficking and misuse. He instructed school and college authorities, along with police, excise, forest, agriculture, and horticulture officials, to work together to prevent the menace.

Speaking at the district-level National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCORD) meeting on Thursday, Venkatesh noted that while marijuana sales have decreased compared to last year, drug abuse among youth is increasing, requiring stronger monitoring and awareness programs. He emphasized setting up warning signs at liquor shops, inspecting medical colleges and pharmacies to prevent misuse of medicines, and proper disposal of expired drugs.

The Health Department has been asked to supply drug detection kits to all primary and community hospitals, with the Police Department already distributing kits to local stations. Doctors are required to cooperate promptly with testing; failure to do so will attract strict action.

District Superintendent of Police Ranjith Kumar Bandaru said cases of drug use and sale are rising sharply. Seizures of ganja have increased from 13 kg in 2023 to 35 kg in 2025, with 12 kg seized in the first three months of 2026. Registered drug cases rose from 51 in 2023 to 84 in 2025, and 31 cases in early 2026. Most victims are young adults aged 18–30, highlighting a serious threat to the district's youth.Authorities reported that drugs enter the district via neighboring states like Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, transported through trains, rural roads, and hidden routes. Police are monitoring railways and highways, with public cooperation urged to keep the district drug-free.

The Excise Department has strengthened checks on illegal liquor and drugs, with permanent border posts in Monakalmuru, Challakere, and Hiriyur taluks. Last year, 23 cases were registered, 33 people arrested, and 364 liters of liquor seized. Coordination meetings with Andhra Pradesh and a dedicated control room with home guards have been set up.

Illegal sale of neera is also being targeted, with FIRs instructed against unlicensed sellers. Agriculture officials are tasked with informing farmers about legal risks related to ganja cultivation. City officials will also remove illegal stalls near schools and colleges.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from police, excise, horticulture, agriculture, and health departments, reinforcing a united front against drugs in Chitradurga.

*Villagers protested for a cremation ground, resolved temporarily by Malipatil's land, while administration negotiations with owners continue*

# YATNAL VILLAGERS PROTEST OVER CREMATION LAND

**YEDRAMI**

Villagers in Yatnal, Yedrami taluk, staged a dramatic protest by placing dead bodies on the road to demand a proper cremation ground in the village. The protest highlighted long-standing difficulties faced by villagers due to the lack of designated land for cremation.

Currently, those with private land perform cremations on their own property, while poorer families are forced to use fields outside the village. The latest incident occurred after the death of Chandappa Badigera. When villagers attempted to cremate him on land adjacent to the village, the landowner refused, prompting the protest.The Tahsildar and his staff arrived at the scene and listened to the villagers' demands. However, the villagers insisted they would not conduct the cremation until a specific cremation ground was provided. The protest ended only after Yamanagouda Malipatil offered his land for the cremation. Villagers have warned that if a permanent cremation site is not assigned soon, they may stage protests in front of the tehsil office.Several officials and local residents, including Sharanagouda Police Patil, Basavaraj Gowda, Somappa Badagera, and others, witnessed the protest.

The taluk administration has submitted a proposal to acquire land for a cemetery, but negotiations are delayed because private landowners are reluctant to accept the government's fixed rates. Compensation will be provided once the acquisition is finalized.Ravattappa Poojary, who had allowed cremations on his land for decades, said he stopped hosting cremations due to lack of compensation. Villagers like Nagappa Badigera expressed frustration, noting that they have performed cremations for three decades but now face uncertainty on where to honor their deceased elders.

The incident underscores the urgent need for a dedicated cremation ground in Yatnal village to ensure respectful funeral practices.

## Protest erupts over insult to national leader

**HUNSUR**

A preliminary meeting at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Hunsur, organized to discuss Baba Saheb Ambedkar Jayanti, turned tense after a shocking incident, officials said. The meeting was attended by Taluk Magistrate J. Manjunath, National Festivals Committee President, and officers from various departments, along with Dalit leaders who shared their views on the celebration.During the session, Nagaraju from Halebidu village suddenly tore down a photo of Babu Jagjivan Ram displayed at Ambedkar Bhavan. He reportedly shouted, "Who is Jagjivan Ram? Tear it down!" His actions and words were seen as an insult to both the national leader and the exploited communities.

In response, the Adijambava Madiga Horata Samiti, Hunsur Taluk branch, staged a massive protest and submitted a petition to Tahsildars Manjunath and Girish of the Deputy Commissioner's office.Addressing reporters, Adi Jambava Sangha Taluk President B. Shivanna said Nagaraju's behavior hurt the feelings of the community and demanded he be booked under the Goonda Act and deported from the state. Parashuram, Taluk President of Madiga Horata Samiti, echoed the call for immediate arrest and action to protect the Adijambava community. Hundreds joined the protest, including leaders B. Shivanna, D. Kumar, H.K. Satish Kumar, Rachaiah, Sannamadaiah, Kantaraju, Shivamma, Venkatesh Belthur, and many others.

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## Women empowered through Viveka Rural training programs

**HUNSUR**

Viveka Gramin Jiwandhara Kendra has been helping women lead self-reliant lives in society by providing training in fashion designing and beautician skills, said Raju, the center's training coordinator.The program celebrated the completion of three-month courses, where certificates were distributed to the trainees at the center on Gokul Road. Raju highlighted that for the past six years, the Kenchanahalli Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, an affiliate of the center, has been offering programs such as dairy farming, mushroom cultivation, sheep rearing, agricultural training, and nursing, enabling women to acquire practical skills and earn livelihoods.Rajeshwari from the Taluk Health Department urged women to apply the knowledge they gained, prioritize financial independence, and confidently step forward in life. "Do not depend on anyone. Stand on your own feet and work like men to achieve a better life," she said.

# Community unites for Journalists' conference

**BIDAR**

Leaders and locals gathered at Shaheen Undergraduate Science College on Thursday to plan the 40th State Conference of the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association, set for April 11–12. Dr. Abdul Qadeer, president of Shaheen Group of Educational Institutions, urged everyone in the district to support the event and called the press the fourth pillar of the nation.

The meeting focused on transport, accommodation, hospitality, registration, and other key sub-committees. Dr. Qadeer announced that 25 buses would provide transport for journalists from across the state and 30 hostels would offer lodging. Journalists would also receive gift bags, and digital registration would be supported for convenience.

State General Secretary G.C. Lokesh emphasized organized accommodation for awardees, office bearers, and district representatives. District Unit President Anand Devappa and committee members Apparao Saudi, Shivakumar Swamy, Basavaraj Kamashetti, Prithviraj S, and others shared updates on preparations.

The meeting concluded with a call for neat, coordinated work to ensure the conference is successful and memorable for all participants.

INMATES GET CARE

# *Health camp brings relief to jail inmates*

**CHITRADURGA**

A free health check-up camp was organized at the district jail in Chitradurga on Wednesday, benefiting 176 inmates. The camp was conducted by the Health Department in association with Basaveshwara Medical College to improve awareness and ensure timely treatment for prisoners.

District Jail Superintendent Siddarama Patil, who inaugurated the camp, urged inmates not to hide their health issues. He said regular check-ups and proper treatment are essential to maintain good health while in custody.

Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish explained that true health includes physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. He advised inmates to overcome hesitation and consult specialist doctors whenever needed. Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa encouraged inmates to adopt positive thinking, maintain cleanliness, and change harmful habits to lead healthier lives.

During the camp, doctors conducted thorough examinations of all inmates. Three new cases of diabetes were identified, and treatment was started immediately. Minor illnesses were treated on the spot, while inmates requiring advanced care were referred to the district hospital for further treatment.

A team of medical experts, including specialists in orthopedics, general medicine, dermatology, and ophthalmology, participated in the camp. Medical officer Dr. Akshata and other healthcare staff ensured smooth conduct of the program.Jail officials, health workers, and ASHA staff also supported the initiative. Authorities said such camps help detect diseases early and improve overall well-being among inmates. The program highlighted the importance of regular health monitoring and timely medical care in correctional facilities across the district.

## Karnataka announces 2026 PUC supplementary exams

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has released the revised schedule for the 2026 Second PUC supplementary examinations. Students are urged to check the dates carefully to avoid any confusion.The exams will start on Thursday, April 30, with Arabic (subject code 01) from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. A holiday follows on May 1, along with Optional English. Core subjects including Accounting, Chemistry, Business Studies, Physics, Pedagogy, Biology, History, Mathematics, Home Economics, Political Science, Electrophysiology, and Computer Science are scheduled between May 2 and May 8.Language and vocational subjects, such as Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Urdu, Sanskrit, French, Hindustani Music, Electronics, IT, Retail, Automobile, Healthcare, and Beauty & Wellness, will be conducted from May 11 to May 13.The board reminded students to arrive on time and follow instructions carefully. The updated timetable is designed to ensure smooth exams and fair assessment for all candidates.

QUICK READ

## CM Siddaramaiah to visit Bidar, Kalaburagi on April 11

**BIDAR**

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will visit Bidar and Kalaburagi districts on April 11. He will inaugurate the 40th Journalists' Conference in Bidar before proceeding to Kalaburagi. In Chittapur, he will dedicate the newly built Bhojalingeshwara temple and later visit the Kodi Mahasiddeshwara Mutt at 5 pm. After completing the program, he will return to Bengaluru by night. Officials said the visit aims to engage with local communities, promote cultural and religious landmarks, and strengthen government initiatives in the region. Residents are encouraged to attend the events while following scheduled arrangements.

## Karnataka schools invite admissions for 2026-27

**MANDYA**

Karnataka Maulana Azad Public Schools, run by the Directorate of Minorities, have opened online applications for I.A.U. and U.A.U. classes for the 2026-27 academic year. Interested students can apply through the official website before the deadline on May 8. For guidance, parents and students can visit the Directorate of Minorities website or contact the District Minority Officers' offices in Mandya, Pandavapura, Malavalli, Nagamangala, Srirangapatna, and Maddur. Several phone numbers are available for assistance. Officials emphasized that early applications are recommended to ensure admission.

# Sedam drinking water problems face strict oversight

### Dr. Patil ordered strict monitoring to prevent water shortages, ensure Jal Jeevan Mission progress.

**SEDAM**

Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil has ordered strict monitoring to ensure that no village in Sedam taluk faces drinking water shortages during the summer. Speaking at the Drinking Water Inspection Task Force meeting at the Taluk Panchayat Hall, he warned officials that they would be held personally responsible for any lapses. Phones must remain active, he added, or officials will be reported, issued notices, and could face suspension.

The minister emphasized the urgency of creating new water sources under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and with additional grants. He instructed that water shortages in villages such as Madanada Poshammai Gudi, Kukkunda SC Oni, Madakal, and Kurukunda be addressed immediately, including drilling borewells where necessary. He also warned that delays, such as not responding to motor burns or supply interruptions, would result in strict action.Dr. Patil expressed dissatisfaction with officials who were not aware of ongoing JJM projects, stressing that PDOs should have complete details of works in their villages. In addition to water concerns, he noted a shortage of doctors in Kurukunta, Ittakal, and Kolakunda and directed immediate action to fill these gaps.The minister further instructed that all drinking water and JJM works in rural areas of Sedam and Chincholi be completed by May. He reminded officials that public complaints or reports in newspapers would trigger accountability measures.Tahsildar Rankana Dhanashree, Chincholi Tahsildar Subbanna Jamkhandi, Executive Officer Channanna Rayannavar, and other department officials attended the meeting. Dr. Patil concluded by urging coordinated efforts to maintain uninterrupted drinking water supply for all residents in the taluk.

# Kalaburagi Dalits protest against insulting remarks

**KALABURAGI**

**Youth brigade condemned Sarma's remarks, saying they insulted Dr. Kharge, hurt Dalit sentiments, and demanded an immediate apology**

Kalaburagi saw a strong protest organized by the Dalit Youth Brigade against derogatory remarks made by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma about Dr. Mallikarjun Kharge, the AICC President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

The protesters submitted a formal petition to the government through the District Magistrate, demanding immediate action.

The youth brigade condemned the statement, saying it personally insulted a senior leader who rose from a humble Dalit background and dedicated over fifty years to political and social service. "While differences of opinion are part of a democracy, every citizen has a responsibility to respect personal dignity," the protesters said.They added that Sarma's remarks not only targeted.

# Priyank Kharge challenges RSS over complaints

**KALABURAGI**

Karnataka Minister and District In-charge Priyank Kharge on Thursday issued a direct challenge to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), asking it to file any complaint on its own letterhead if it is a registered organization. His remarks came amid the controversy over AICC President and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's "poisonous snake" comment.

"Let complaints be filed. But why hasn't the RSS filed one? If they are registered, let them do so on their own letterhead," Priyank Kharge said. "RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat himself has said they do not need anyone's support—so let them proceed."

Defending the ideological stance of his party, Kharge told reporters that their principles are based on equality and the teachings of Buddha and Basavanna. "Some people follow ideologies that go against these values and the Constitution. That is our personal view," he said. On the "poisonous snake" remark, he added, "If a poisonous snake appears, will anyone pour milk on it? The statement must be understood in that context."

He also launched a sharp attack on Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, saying such comments reflect a "fear of defeat." Kharge pointed out Sarma's past in Congress and questioned his credibility on issues of nationalism.Taking aim at BJP leaders more broadly, Kharge criticized inconsistencies, highlighting their domestic attacks on minorities while continuing trade with countries like the UAE for fuel and fertilizers. He also dismissed remarks by BJP leader Pratap Simha, questioning his relevance, and raised concerns over security lapses in Parliament, calling for accountability.

Responding to Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, who threatened legal action against him and Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyank Kharge said, "If they have the strength, let them bring a squad and arrest us." He reaffirmed that he and Mallikarjun Kharge follow the same Basava-inspired ideology and criticized leaders who shift positions after joining the BJP.

Several leaders, including MLC Tippannappa Kamaknur and Jagadev Guttedar, were present during the interaction, witnessing the firm stance of Priyank Kharge against his political rivals.

# Violence and theft shock Hunsur town residents

**HUNSUR**

Hunsur witnessed two disturbing incidents, affecting both public safety and religious sentiment.

In Kattemalalavadi, a young man, Chandramouli, son of Gururaj from Brahmin Barangay and a member of the National Defence Force Organization, was attacked following a dispute over a vehicle transporting cattle to the slaughterhouse. Chandramouli, acting on information about illegal cattle transport, stopped the Bolero carrying seven to eight cattle near Nandi Circle. An argument erupted with Shahrukh of Shabbir Nagar, resulting in Chandramouli sustaining injuries to his mouth and nose. He was admitted to the hospital for treatment. Both parties filed complaints against each other. Police rescued three cows from Shahrukh's house and began investigating the Bolero vehicle and those involved.

Meanwhile, in BBC Colony, thieves broke into the Masanikamma temple.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **REKHA DEVI**, W/o Dinesh Jiyaram Solanki,resident of 2nd Floor, No 4 & 5, 18th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli Main Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024., have changed my name to **REKHA**, vide affidavit dated: 08.04.2026, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **MOHAMED GANI ABDUL MUTHALIEF**, S/o Abdul Muthalief, resident of No. C-24, Bearys Anugraha, 1st Cross, KSFC Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru- 560084, have changed my name to **MOHAMED GANI**, vide affidavit dated: 09.04.2026, before Notary C. V. ERAPPA, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **AIYAZ PASHA**, S/o Syed Mastan, resident of No.143, 1st Main Road, 5th Cross, Babu Reddy Layout, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 032, have changed my name to **AYAZ PASHA**, vide affidavit dated: 09.04.2026, before Notary V.RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, HARISH V S/o T. VENKATESH R/o Brahmin Street, Chikkatigalarapete, Hosakote, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562114, have changed the name of my minor son SHAURYA VIJENDRA H aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as VIHAN NANDAN H.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, S D KUMAR S/o DONKE GOWDA R/o No 65, Sri Laxmi Ranganatha Swamy Nilaya, Annapoomeshwari Layout, Seegehalli Government Hospital, Next to Mallappa Layout, Virgonagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560049, have changed the name of my minor daughter DHRUTHI GOWDA S K aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as DHRUTIKA S K.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

It is for information that I, HENRY THOMAS S/o ANDREWS THOMAS, R/o 18, 4th cross, Immaculate conception church, Doresanipalya, JP Nagar Phase 4, Bilekahalli, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560076, India, declare that the name of my father and mother have been wrongly written as FATHIMA NATHAN G and MARY GLORIA B in my educational certificates. The actual name of my father and mother are ANDREWS THOMAS and G SAGAYA CHRISTINA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **HASEEN TAJ**, resident of No:1468, 1st Floor, 13th Cross Road, Qamar Nagar, Nagarbhavi 1St Stage, B D A Layout, Chandra Layout, Bangalore – 560072. have changed my name to **KOUSAR FATHIMA**, vide affidavit dated: 08.04.2026, before Notary M PRABHAKAR, Bengaluru.

**IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR**
**Cri.mis. No. 155/2026**

**Petitioner :**
**1. Sri. Rajesh. G** S/o Late. G.S. Gangadharaiah, **2. Sri. Yashwanth. G.R** S/o Rajesh G, 3. **Kum. Priyanka G.R** D/o Rajesh G All are residing at Basavapura Village, Thondebhavai Hobli, Gowribidanooru Taluk, Chikkaballapur Dis,

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Wheres the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of her wife of the petitioner by name Manjula W/o Rajesh G who died on 25.06.2018 in the Road Accident at Doddaballapur to Gowribidhanoor road near Gunjur Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 16/5/2026 at 11-00 AM in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 9/4/2026.

Place: Doddaballapur Date: 06.04.2026

**By order of the court : Shirestedar**
1 Addl. Civil Jugde and JMFC, Doddaballapur
Sri. Vijaykumar. C, Advocate, Opp.Civil Complex Rojipur Doddaballapur

**IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA**
**CMis.No.171/2026**

**Petitioners:** **Smt.Nagarathnamma** W/o Late Neelakantachar Aged about 86 years, R/at #79, Karepura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.

V/s

**Respondent :** Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura and others.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Petitioners has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Husband of petitioner No.1, and father petitioner No.2 to 7 by name **LATE NEELAKANTACHAR S/O LATE HONNAGANGACHAR** who died on 17.03.1984 at Karepura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 11-5-2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 9th day of April 2026.

**By Order of the Court : Chief Ministerial Officer**
Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

**Advocate : Manjula.J,** Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.

**AFFIDAVIT**
**(FOR MISMATCH IN NAME)**

1, MAHENDRA KURUSWAMY, aged about 41 years, S/o Mr. Kuruswamy Raman, residing at No.944, Shivaji Road, 4th Cross Bhavani Nagar, Belgaum, Karnataka 590008, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on Oath as follows:

(a) That, I do hereby state and declare that I am the resident of the above mentioned address and a citizen of India.

(b) That, I do hereby declare and submit that I am fully aware of the contents of this Affidavit and swearing into the same accordingly.

(c) That, I do hereby state and declare that my name as per my Aadhaar Card No.8361 8876 2281 is MAHENDRA KURUSWAMY

(d) That, I do hereby state and declare that my name had been mentioned in my Passport issued by the Regional Passport Office bearing Passport No.Z3867301, my name had been mentioned as only MAHENDRA

(c) That, I do hereby state and declare that both the name MAHENDRA KURUSWAMY and MAHENDRA, pertains to one and the same person that is of myself.

(1) That, I do hereby declare and submit that the purpose of swearing into this Declaratory Affidavit is to submit the same to the concerned authorities and arrange them to consider my name as "MAHENDRA KURUSWAMY" as per my Aadhaar Card, on the strength of this Declaratory Affidavit.

later (g) That, I do hereby declare and submit that I shall be held responsible in the event of any untoward incident happens at a date due to the change of the name from "MAHENDRA" to "MAHENDRA KURUSWAMY" and will not hold anyone responsible for the same and will get the problem sorted out by me at my cost and consequences.

Whatever stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge, information and belief. Nothing material has been concealed there from.

SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT
SWORN TO BEFORE ME
**A.R. MUNEER AHMED**
**M. Com, LLB, DPM & IM,**
ADVOCATE & NOTARY PUBLIC
Reg. No. 4932, Mobile: 9845712075
Date: 07.04.2026
Place: Bangalore

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public is hereby informed that my clients , intends to enter into certain transaction in respect of immovable property situated at Vandarguppe Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapattana Taluk and Bengaluru South District (earlier Ramanagara District) , which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and herein after referred to as the Schedule Property with its present owners, who have represented to my client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property having unrestricted right of alienation over the same. The owners have further represented to my client that Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, charges, liens, litigations and/or any third-party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.**

**Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within seven (15) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.**

**SCHEDULE PROPERTIES.**

**All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.No.35/2, measuring 01 Acre 10 Guntas, situated at Vandarguppe Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapattana Taluk and Bengaluru South District (earlier Ramanagara District) and bounded on: EAST BY: Land bearing Sy.No.35/3 belonging to Mr. Beeraiah @ Peeruvaiah, WEST BY: Land bearing Sy.Nos. 35/1 belonging to Lakkanna, NORTH BY: Land belonging to Mrs. Malathi W/o. late. Ramesh and Private Property, SOUTH BY: Road.**

**SD/-**
**Akhilesh S., Advocate, No.79, Sathyanarayana, H. B. C. S, 2nd Stage, 3rd Cross, Mahalakshmipuram Post, Bangalore-560086.**
**Email: akhileshsridhar1994@gmail.com**
**Place: Bangalore. Date: 09-04-2026**

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

# Journalists gear up for Bidar bike rally

**BIDAR**

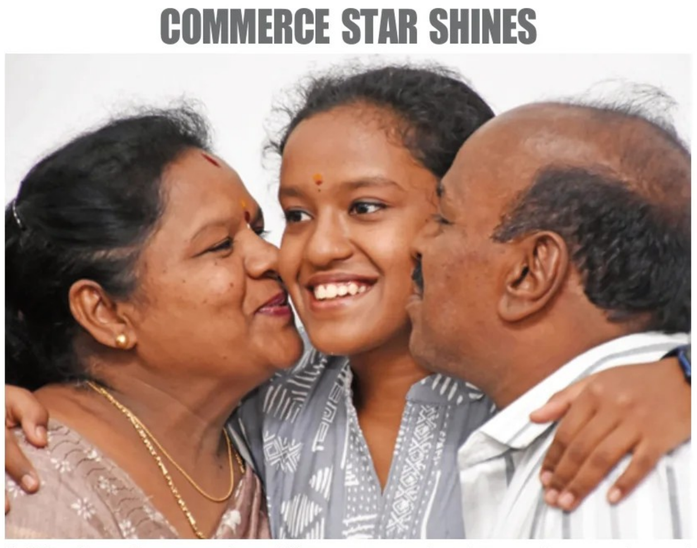
A colorful bike rally marked the promotion of the 40th State Conference of Journalists in Bidar on Thursday. Organized by the Conference Promotion Committee, journalists from across the district participated with enthusiasm, wearing helmets for safety.

The rally began at Basaveshwara Circle, flagged off by District Superintendent of Police Pradeep Gunti, who released a balloon into the sky. Channabasavananda Swamiji from Basava Gangotri, Bengaluru, was also present. Riders traveled through Mahaveer Circle, Ambedkar Circle, Shivaji Circle, Haralaya Circle, and concluded at Pratapnagara Press House. Bikes carried rally stickers while participants chanted slogans praising the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association and the upcoming conference.

Earlier, police promoted road safety by distributing helmets to journalists. Additional DSP Chandrakath Poojary and Traffic CPI Ramesh Mailurkar joined the initiative.

District Unit President Anand Devappa welcomed guests with roses and pens. Senior journalists and committee members including Lokesh, Apparao Saudi, Shivakumar Swamy, and Mallikarjuna Nagarala actively took part, making the rally a lively and memorable event.

## COMMERCE STAR SHINES



K. Chitra Spoorthy, a second-year PU commerce student, has proudly secured second rank in the II PU board examination, scoring an impressive 597 out of 600 marks

# Magadi farmers dispute over sattegal project

**MAGADI**

Magadi witnessed a heated debate over the Sattegal Irrigation Project, which is now being implemented in the industrial area of Dabuspet rather than filling lakes in Magadi taluk.

Kisan Congress District President Agro Purushottam Tirgate raised questions at a press conference about the role of Farmers' Association President Hosapalya Lokesh in informing the public.Tirgatte emphasized that large-scale development work, including the Hemavati Express Canal costing around ₹1,000 crore, is underway thanks to the efforts of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, former MP D.K. Suresh, and MLA H.C. Balakrishna. He urged farmers and local organizations to cooperate to ensure the successful.

# *Jevargi students encouraged to serve society*

**JEVARGI**

Jevargi witnessed the inauguration of the annual special camp for 2025-26 organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) units of the Government First Grade College and Gulbarga University. The program aimed to instill a sense of service and leadership among students.

Speaking at the event, Rajashekar Siri, Taluk President of Akhil Bharat Veerashaiva Mahasabha, highlighted India's unity in diversity. "Despite differences in language, culture, and dress, harmony is our country's strength," he said. He encouraged students to develop a spirit of service and contribute positively to society.College Development Committee member Sudhindra Vakeel urged students to take full advantage of such camps to nurture leadership qualities. College Principal Dr. Shantha Astige emphasized that campers should work to create awareness in rural communities. "Along with cleaning villages, try to cleanse the minds of people with knowledge and good practices," she said.

## QUICK READ

### Tejashwi targets govt over TRE-4 teacher recruitment delay

**PATNA**

Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav criticised the Nitish Kumar government over delays in the TRE-4 teacher recruitment process. He said the uncertainty has badly affected youth, with vacancies yet to be announced despite nearly a year passing. Yadav highlighted earlier recruitments under his tenure, claiming timely and transparent hiring. He alleged repeated postponements have pushed candidates beyond age limits and caused frustration. Accusing the government of ignoring young people's concerns, he urged immediate action. Yadav said the issue impacts millions of aspirants and their families awaiting job opportunities.

### Row over singing 'Vande Mataram' sparks political debate

**NEW DELHI**

A controversy erupted after Fauzia Khan said singing 'Vande Mataram' goes against her religious beliefs. Her remarks followed an incident in Indore where councillors refused to sing the national song. Khan said she would stand respectfully but cannot be forced to sing, citing constitutional freedom of religion. Udit Raj supported making it voluntary, while Shaina NC insisted it reflects patriotism. Others called the refusal disrespectful. The debate has raised questions about balancing national sentiment with individual rights, as differing views continue to fuel political and public discussions.

### Scholars seek Murmu's intervention over NCERT book ban by SC

**NEW DELHI**

Over 50 academicians have urged Droupadi Murmu to intervene in the ban on an NCERT Class 8 textbook by the Supreme Court of India. They called the move judicial overreach, saying it harms education and limits debate. The ban targeted a chapter on the judiciary in "Exploring Society, India and Beyond." Scholars said authors were punished without a fair hearing. They warned the decision may create fear among teachers and affect students nationwide. The group asked authorities to review the ban, remove only the disputed content, and ensure academic freedom.

# Yogi vows better lives for weavers with production hubs

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared protecting weavers' income and dignity a priority, announcing new production hubs and solar energy.

**LUCKNOW**

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has declared that protecting the income and dignity of weavers is a top priority for Uttar Pradesh.

During a high-level meeting, the Chief Minister described the state's nearly two lakh weavers as "pillars of the economy" who carry forward India's rich cultural traditions.

He emphasized that the government must go beyond simple aid and create a system that truly changes their lives. To tackle problems like high costs and outdated designs, the Chief Minister ordered the creation of special 'production hubs'. These hubs will not just focus on making clothes or carpets but will help with everything from modern branding to fancy packaging.

The goal is to make sure products like the state's famous bedsheets and mats can compete on the global stage.

Currently, Uttar Pradesh contributes nearly 10% of India's handloom exports, and the government wants that number to grow.

One major focus of the plan is helping weavers save money on their bills. Chief Minister Adityanath asked officials to find ways to lower electricity costs for powerloom workers and suggested using solar energy as a permanent solution.

By switching to solar power, weavers can run their machines without worrying about expensive monthly fees.

### 'MAKE USE OF E-COMMERCE FOR BETTER CUSTOMER REACH'

CM Yogi also appealed for use of internet to sell weavers' products directly to customers through e-commerce platforms. By removing the middleman, the state hopes to ensure that every rupee of profit goes straight into the pockets of the craftsmen. This new plan aims to blend tradition with technology to build a brighter future for weavers, he added.

*Parth Pawar was sworn into the Rajya Sabha today, marking a transition for the family following Ajit Pawar's death.*

# Parth Pawar enters Rajya Sabha following family tragedy

**NEW DELHI**

In a poignant moment at Parliament House, Parth Pawar was sworn in as a Member of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The 35-year-old Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader took his oath in English before Chairman CP Radhakrishnan.

The ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including Leader of the House JP Nadda, marking a new chapter for the Pawar family following a year of immense personal and political loss.

Parth is the son of the late Ajit Pawar, the former Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra who tragically died in a plane crash earlier this year. His entry into the Upper House comes after his mother, Sunetra Pawar, vacated her Rajya Sabha seat to take over her late husband's mantle as Deputy Chief Minister. Parth, who previously faced a setback in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, secured his seat through the NCP's strong presence in the state assembly.

Meanwhile, a major political move is unfolding in Baramati. NCP(SP) legislator Rohit Pawar met with Congress leaders today, urging them to withdraw their candidate for the upcoming April 23 by-election. He argued that allowing Sunetra Pawar to win unopposed would be the ultimate tribute to the "untimely demise" of Ajit Dada.

While the local Congress leadership acknowledged the emotional weight of the request, they have deferred the final decision to the party's "High Command" in Delhi.

As the deadline for withdrawing nominations looms, all eyes remain on Baramati to see if political rivalry will yield to a gesture of mourning.

# CM funds huge projects for Kumbh Mela

**DEHRADUN**

With the massive Kumbh Mela 2027 on the horizon, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has officially cleared a staggering ₹1,200 crore to prepare the state for millions of arriving pilgrims.

The funding is split between high-priority religious infrastructure and broader district development to ensure the entire state benefits from the upcoming festival.

Specifically, ₹282 crore has been set aside for 28 urgent projects directly tied to the Kumbh Mela. These include major upgrades to the Haridwar, Sharda, and Rishikesh Ganga Corridors. The government's goal is to transform these riverfronts with beautiful ghats and improved facilities, making the spiritual journey safer and more comfortable for tourists and devotees alike. The remaining ₹1,018 crore will be spread across various districts to support local growth throughout the 2026-27 period.

Chief Minister Dhami has issued a strict "no delays" policy, ordering officials to show visible progress on the ground within the next six months. He emphasized that quality cannot be sacrificed for speed, especially regarding safety. For the Sharda Corridor, experts will conduct landslide sensitivity studies to protect the area from natural disasters. The Uttarakhand Investment and Infrastructure Development Board will now take the lead in monitoring these projects daily. By fast-tracking these funds, the government hopes to host the Kumbh Mela on a grander scale than ever before.

# Judge refuses to hear case for second time

**NEW DELHI**

The high-profile Dwarka accident case, which claimed the life of 23-year-old Sahil Dhaneshra, has hit another legal roadblock.

For the second time in two weeks, a local judge has recused himself from hearing the charges against the father of the minor who was allegedly behind the wheel during the fatal February crash.

Judicial Magistrate Ajay Narwal stepped aside, citing personal reasons for his decision. This move follows a complicated game of legal "tag." The judge had first recused himself on March 27, but the file was sent back to him because the Chief Judicial Magistrate lacked the authority to reassign it elsewhere. Now, the case has been moved up to the Principal District and Sessions Judge for a final decision on who will preside over the trial. The case centers on a tragic incident where Sahil's motorcycle was hit by a speeding SUV. Delhi Police have filed two separate charge sheets, one for the 17-year-old driver and another for his father. The father faces serious charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including causing death by negligence and allowing an unauthorized person to drive.

The delay comes just as Sahil's mother, Inna Makan, withdrew a request for a CBI probe after police promised a more transparent investigation. However, with the courtroom empty and the file waiting for a new judge, the family's quest for justice remains on hold.

# Railways target massive freight boost by 2030

**NEW DELHI**

**Indian Railways aims to carry 3,000 million tonnes of freight by 2030, utilizing dedicated corridors, electrification, and AI to slash logistics costs and boost industrial growth.**

Indian Railways is on a fast track to becoming the engine of the nation's economy, with a bold target to carry 3,000 million tonnes of freight by 2030.

According to a new report, the rail sector currently handles about 30 percent of India's cargo movement, leaving huge room for growth as the country modernizes its tracks and trains.

A major part of this transformation involves "Dedicated Freight Corridors" special high-speed tracks built only for cargo. Combined with nearly 100% electrification, these upgrades are making rail travel faster, cheaper, and much greener.

Experts believe that shifting more goods from roads to rails will help lower India's overall logistics costs, which currently sit at roughly 8 percent of the national GDP.

Reducing these costs is key to making Indian products more competitive on the global stage. Dr Surendra Kumar Ahirwar from the Railway Board said the system is becoming "future-ready." Over the last 10 years, India has added a staggering 31,000 kilometers of new tracks. The focus is now shifting toward using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to manage traffic and ensuring "last-mile connectivity," which means making it easier for goods to travel from the train station directly to the factory or warehouse.

By moving beyond traditional transport and embracing digital tools, the railways are set to boost industrial growth.

### Injured officer gets cardboard splint in Bihar

**PATNA :** A shocking medical incident in Bihar's Sheohar district has sparked nationwide outrage after a wounded police officer was treated with cardboard and saline pipes instead of proper medical equipment. The sight of a Sub-Inspector receiving "DIY" healthcare at a government facility has raised serious questions about the state's crumbling public health infrastructure. Sub-Inspector Shyamlal was rushed to the Sadar Hospital after a speeding vehicle crashed into his bike near Fatehpur, leaving him with multiple leg fractures. However, instead of using standard medical splints or a plaster cast, hospital staff reportedly used pieces of cardboard boxes and plastic saline tubes to immobilize his broken limb.

Government of Karnataka
**The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.**
No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-3/2026-27/ DATED: 08.04.2026
**TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 02/2026-27, Dated: 08.04.2026.**
Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-3 & KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD and the contractors belonging to Scheduled caste shall be domicile of the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years. Tenders Invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 02 Works under PWD Hassan Division. In that 01 work is reserved for scheduled caste contractors. The minimum amount put to tender is Rs.81.20 Lakhs and maximum amount put to tender is Rs.239.80 Lakhs. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 18.04.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.**
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/28/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKODI**
Email :preckdee@gmail.com Office Phone No: 08338-272131,
No.PRE/CKD/Db/kppp/2026-27/75 Date: 06-04-2026
**Kppp- ¸SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-Mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4 (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible Contractors, registered in P.R.E. Department, & with kppp registration Bangalore, on "turn-key", basis only.
1] Last date of request for issue of blank E-bid document through e-Procurment Date: Other works 06-04-2026 To 18-04-2026, 2] Bid Closing & submission Date: Other works 18-04-2026 AT 04:00 PM, 3] Tender Opening Date: Other works 21-04-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 4]Pre Bid Meeting Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only] 18-04-2026 AT 05:00 PM, 5] Techanical Bid Opening Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only] 21-04-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 6] Financial Bid Opening Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only] 23-04-2026 AT 11:00 AM
General Works Indent No's:24947, 25637, 25638, 25639, 25640, 25641, 25403, 25513, 24332, 23312, 23702, 23781, 23671, 24789, 24828, 24833, 23846, 23648, 23669, 24861, 23689, 23697, 24815, 24405, 24610, 24011, 24412, 10729, 7996, 7986, 17487, SC Works Indent No's:25044,24458, ST Works Indent No's: 23838, 25155, 24906, 24107, Category 1 Works Indent No's: 25332, Category 2A Works Indent No's: 23623, 25399, 25328,
For further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned, during office hours, or may visit web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/
**Sd/-Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chikodi.**
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-71/KSMCA/2026-27

EXAM CONTROVERSY

# *EXAM ROW IN UJJAIN OVER RELIGIOUS QUESTION*

**UJJAIN**

A heated controversy has broken out at Samrat Vikramaditya University after a religious question appeared in a recent exam paper.

Students appearing for their third-year BCom, BBA, and BCA exams were surprised to find a question focused on Islamic faith in their Foundation Course paper.

The incident has sparked a massive debate on social media and led to protests from various local organizations.

The disputed question asked students to complete the sentence, "There is no one other than Allah," providing four multiple-choice options.

Many people quickly criticized the question, arguing that it was inappropriate for a secular university to promote specific religious beliefs in a general academic test. They claimed the paper setter showed bias and failed to maintain the neutral environment expected in a public educational institution.

University officials have moved quickly to address the rising anger. Registrar Anil Sharma confirmed that the matter has been handed over to a special Examination Committee.

This group of subject experts will check if the question was actually part of the approved syllabus or if it was an unauthorized addition by the examiner. If the committee finds the question to be an error or a deliberate act of bias, the university has promised strict disciplinary action.

Currently, the university is reviewing whether the question will be removed from the final marking process. While the administration insists this is an academic issue, they have assured the public that they will uphold the rules and keep religion out of future exam papers. The final report from the experts is expected soon.

# Millions cast votes in major state elections

Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry recorded massive voter turnouts, marking a robust display of democracy across the three regions.

**NEW DELHI**

Democracy was on full display as citizens across Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry turned out in massive numbers to cast their votes. Long queues were seen from the early hours, signaling high public engagement in the Assembly elections. By late afternoon, all three regions reported robust figures, with Assam leading the charge at a staggering 75.91% turnout.

In Assam, where 126 seats are up for grabs, the South Salmara Mankachar district saw an incredible 84.24% participation rate. Meanwhile, Kerala's 140-seat race saw 62.71% of the electorate heading to the booths, with Ernakulam emerging as the most active district. Puducherry also witnessed a high level of enthusiasm, recording a 72.40% turnout across its 30 constituencies.

The sheer scale of the operation is immense. In Kerala alone, over 2.69 crore people were eligible to vote, including nearly 4.25 lakh young first-timers and over 2 lakh seniors. Assam's election featured 722 candidates and utilized webcasting in over 31,000 stations to ensure transparency. To manage this "Festival of Democracy," the Election Commission deployed over 1.5 lakh personnel and implemented strict monitoring with VVPAT machines.

Officials noted that the process remained largely smooth and transparent across all three regions. This high participation reflects a deeply engaged public ready to choose their local leadership for the next five years.

# Nagaland leads bypoll turnout as voters surge

**Nagaland, Tripura, and Karnataka saw high voter turnouts in key by-elections, as candidates battle for vacant seats with official results expected on May 4.**

**NAGALAND**

Voters across Nagaland, Tripura, and Karnataka turned out in impressive numbers for crucial Assembly by-elections.

Nagaland emerged as the clear leader in civic participation, while strong momentum was seen in other states as citizens gathered to fill vacant legislative seats.

In Nagaland's Koridang constituency, the energy was palpable with a remarkable 75.06% voter turnout. The seat, left vacant by the passing of veteran leader Imkong L. Imchen, has seen a fierce battle between Congress candidate T. Chalukumba AO and the late leader's son, Daochier I. Imchen, representing the BJP.

Tripura's Dharmanagar constituency followed closely with a 70.09% turnout. This election was prompted by the death of former Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen. The contest here is a high-stakes three-way fight involving the BJP, Congress, and the CPI(M).Meanwhile, in Karnataka, polling remained steady as the day progressed. Bagalkot recorded a 54.82% turnout, while Davanagere South stood at 49.66%. These elections are deeply personal for many, as the Congress has fielded the sons of the late sitting legislators in both segments to retain their strongholds against a determined BJP challenge.

The Election Commission confirmed that the voting process, which began in the morning, remained largely peaceful. While Goa's scheduled by-poll was cancelled by the High Court, the remaining states are now looking toward the finish line. The fate of these candidates is currently sealed in electronic voting machines, with the official results set to be announced on May 4.

# PM vows to protect women's dignity

**BIRBHUM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a blistering attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC), framing the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections as a battle for the "dignity and honor of women."

Addressing a massive rally in Birbhum, the Prime Minister accused the state government of fostering a culture of fear and disrespecting both tribal communities and the constitution.

In a sharp critique, PM Modi cited the recent treatment of President Droupadi Murmu during a tribal conference in the state, calling the alleged protocol lapses an "insult to all tribals and women." He questioned whether the TMC felt entitled to ignore constitutional duties simply because the President is a daughter of the tribal community. "This arrogance must end," he told the cheering crowd.

# AAP leader blames BJP for rising crime in Haryana

**NEW DELHI**

Anurag Dhanda criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Haryana, calling it a "crime state" following a shooting incident in Jhajjar. Dhanda also accused the Indian National Congress of staying silent despite being the main opposition in the state. The controversy arose after gangsters fired 14 bullets at a house in broad daylight, injuring Sahil, also known as Sonu. ACP Beri Anil Kumar said the victim was taken to the hospital before police arrived.

# Left alliance expects massive win in Keralam

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

As the 2026 Assembly elections in Keralam hit their stride, CPI State Secretary Binoy Viswam declared that the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) is on the verge of a "mammoth victory." Speaking to reporters after casting his vote in the capital, the veteran leader claimed that early reports from across the state suggest a powerful wave of support for the incumbent alliance.

Viswam described the current political landscape as a fight to protect the state's core values. He made a passionate plea to voters, urging them to choose the LDF as the only force capable of defending secularism, democracy, and the rights of the poor. He also took the opportunity to sharpen his attack on the opposition, alleging an "unholy alliance" between the Congress and the BJP, which he insisted must be defeated to preserve the state's progress.

Earlier, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan echoed this confidence while voting in Kannur.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.
MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
**Regd Office:** 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 | **Phone No.:** 0487-3520504, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

| Sr. No. | Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch | Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created | Npa Date | Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ameenabanu S, Syed Althaf S, **/MHL00340019132/** Mysore | All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 159/123/1/1, Pl.D. No.152100301100220649, Situated At Kirugavalu Grama, Kiragavalu Gramapanchayat, Malavalli Block, Mandya (D)., Karnataka, Pin: 571424 Admeasuring: 32.60 Sq Mts.. East-House of Syed Akbar, West-House of Ashraf, South-Road, North-House of Fayaz | 20-03-2026 | 23-03-2026 & Rs.319467/- |
| 2 | H S Basavaraj, Shashikala, Eramma, **/MLAP0127048401/** Koppal | Residential 11B Property Bearing Vpc No.197, Property No.152000100900203384, Measuring East To West: 16.1544000000000002Mtr And North To South: 15.24Mtr, Total Measuring 246.19Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 55.18Sq Mtr, Situated At Vaddarahatti Village, Tq: Gangavati & Dist: Koppal, Karnataka, Pin: 583227. East-Quarter, West-Quarter, South-Compound, North-Road | 23-03-2026 | 24-03-2026 & Rs.491093/- |
| 3 | Sumithra, Ravi, **/MHL00910040925/** Hassan | All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing Property Id No. 151600101300300056, Gram Panchayath Khatha No. 50, Survey No. 43 And Property Situated At Bettahalli Village, Magge Gram Panchayath, Aluru Taluk And Hassan District, Measuring East To West: 9.14 Meters And North To South: 18.29 Meters And Totally Measuring 167.22 Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 88.26 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573218. East-Site Property of Smt. Jayamma & Sri. Eraiah, West-House Property of Sri. Yalakkaiah, South-Bettahalli Road, North-Vacant Place | 23-03-2026 | 24-03-2026 & Rs.402853/- |
| 4 | Madhu, Manjula A Y, Rangegowda, Sushilamma, Mahesha B R, **/NLAP0091053258/** Hassan | All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing Property Id No. 151600701300100035, Gram Panchayath Property No. 17, Survey No. 75/21 And Property Situated At Basavanaikanahalli Village, Hangarahalli Gram Panchayath, Holenarasipura Taluk And Hassan District, Totally Measuring 74.786900 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573120. East-Road, West-House Property of Sri. Basavegowda., South-House Property of Sri. Maligegowda., North-House Property of Smt. Shanthamma Wife of Sri. Rajegowda. | 25-03-2026 | 27-03-2026 & Rs.1079913/- |
| 5 | K D Ganesh, Dyavaiah K, Biliyamma R, Nanda Kumar K D, **/NHL00910033815/** Hassan | All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 151600603600220048, Gram Panchayath Property No. 285/15, In Survey No. 5 Situated At Kuppalli Village, Hoovinahalli Kaval Gram Panchayath, Hassan Taluk And District And Measuring: East To West: 12.19 Meters And North To South: 9.14 Meters, Totally Measuring 111.46 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573217. East-Road, West-Site No. 25, South-Site No. 16, North-Site No. 14 | 25-03-2026 | 27-03-2026 & Rs.262583/- |
| 6 | Nagaraja Shivamurthy Ilager, Shivamurteppa Fakkirappa Iliger, Sharukhan Aralikatti, **/NHL00260049254/** Hubli | Residential 11B Property Bearing Vpc No.66/B, Property No.151700400100300356, Total Measuring 86.500000Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 86.500000Sq Mtr, Rs No. 20/*/A Situated At Dasanakoppa Village Within Satenahalli Gram Panchayat, Tq: Hirekerur & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka, Pin: 581109. East-Property of Hanamantappa Fakkirappa Iliger, West-Property of Subhasappa Fakkirappa Iliger, South-Panchayat Road, North-Property of Owner | 26-03-2026 | 27-03-2026 & Rs.994327/- |
| 7 | Rathnamma M, Mallesh H, Praveen Kumar S M, **/MHL00910017462/** Hassan | All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 151600601401520027, Gram Panchayath Property No. 53 Situated At Seegegudda Kavalu Village, Ugane Gram Panchayath, Hassan Taluk And Hassan District, Totally Measuring 111.48 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573216. East-Site No. 07, West-Road, South-Site No. 19, North-Site No. 21 | 25-03-2026 | 30-03-2026 & Rs.306683/- |
| 8 | Shankrappa Yamanappa Pavar, Sharavva Shankarappa, Manajappa Pakira Nayka, **/NHL01270034267/** Koppal | Residential 11B Property Bearing Vpc No.12, Property No.152000202001020097, Total Measuring 185.80Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 118.07Sq Mtr, Situated At Jinnapurchikkatanda Village Within Vanaballary Gram Panchayat, Tq: & Dist: Koppal, Karnataka, Pin: 583237. East-Property of Manjappa, West-CC Road, South-Property of Venkatesh Nayak, North-CC Road | 27-03-2026 | 30-03-2026 & Rs.921865/- |
| 9 | Manjunath P Madalli, Parasappa N Madalli, Ningavva P Madalli, Pooja Manjunath Madalli, Mahesh Parasappa Mandre, **/NLAP0026055293/** Hubli | Residential Property Bearing Vpc No.1574, Property No.151400500600102573, Total Measuring 111.480000 Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 111.480000Sq Mtr, Ward No. 5 In Rs No. 4/2 Situated At Bellatti Village, Tq: Shirahatti & Dist: Gadag, Karnataka, Pin: 582112. East-Own Property, West-Plot No. 14, South-Plot No. 5, North-Road | 28-03-2026 | 30-03-2026 & Rs.444807/- |
| 10 | Mahantesh Bandiwaddar, Laxmavva Bandivaddar, Ramanagouda Telagade, **/NHL00260041935/** Hubli | Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Gp No.268A, Old Property No. 1501004007017266 New Property No.150100400700270336, Total Measuring 63.60Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 63.60Sq Mtr Situated At Gonal S K Village Within Kandagal Gram Panchayat, Tq: Ilakal & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587154. East-Property of Yallavva Maratageri, West-Property of Mallamma Ramanna Bandivaddar, South-Road, North-Property of Irappa Valikar | 28-03-2026 | 30-03-2026 & Rs.526647/- |
| 11 | Madevakka Rayannanavar, Mallikarjun Muttanagouda Rayannanavar, Apoorva T K, Raju V Kori, **/MHL00260042889/** Hubli | Residential Property Bearing Vpc No. 295B, Property No.151700301000100612, Total Measuring 245.64Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 84.00Sq Mtr, Situated At Kurubagonda Village, Tq: & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka, Pin: 581110. East- Property of Bharamagouda Rayannanavar, West-Property of Devendrappa Hondadakeri, South-Panchayat Road, North-Property of Marudrappa Kulenur | 28-03-2026 | 30-03-2026 & Rs.634259/- |
| 12 | Shekar K, Kanthamma P, Akash C S, **/NHL00340020373/** Mysore | All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 60/87, Pl.D No.152100101300720033, Situated At Chikkamandagere Grama, Mandagere Gramapanchayat, Krishnarajapete Block, Mandya (D)., Karnataka, Pin: 571423 Admeasuring: 96.15 Sq Mts.. East-Galli & House of Krishnegowda, West-Galli & House of Nagegowda, South-Survey Number Property, North-Road | 28-03-2026 | 30-03-2026 & Rs.316764/- |
| 13 | Siddappa Kalloleppa Kambar, Kalloleppa Hanamappa Kambar, Shidlingavva Kallolepa Kambar, Maruthi Ashok Kammar, **/NHL00260011716/** Hubli | All That Part And Parcel of Property Na Open Plot Bearing Cts No. 3913/108, Measuring 500 Sq Ft Bearing E- Property No. 39-8-177 of Ward No.22 of Naragund Within The Limits of Tmc Naragund (At Ambedkar Nagar), Karnataka, Pin: 582207. East-Property of Dharmappa Bhajantri (Cts No.3913/109), West-Road, South-Property of Yamanappa Kammar (Cts No.3913/110)., North-Govt Road. | 28-03-2026 | 30-03-2026 & Rs.476910/- |

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

**Date: 10th April 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA** **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

# TN gets new leaders amid political row

**CHENNAI**

Tamil Nadu's top administration saw a major shake-up as M. Sai Kumar took charge as the new Chief Secretary. This sudden change came after the Election Commission (EC) ordered the transfer of the previous official, N. Muruganandam while Mr. Sai Kumar officially started his new role at the Chennai Secretariat.

The reshuffle did not stop there. Senior police officer Sandeep Mittal was also appointed to lead the Armed Police and the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption department. While these moves are part of the election oversight process, they have sparked a heated political debate across the state.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin reacted strongly to the decision, calling the transfers "political" and "arbitrary." In a public statement, he criticized the Election Commission, claiming the move was made to favor the BJP-led central government. Mr. Stalin pointed out that similar transfers did not happen in other states like Assam or Bihar during their election cycles. He argued that the Commission should remain neutral to protect the country's democracy.

Despite the criticism, the new officials have already moved into their roles to oversee state operations during the busy election season. The Chief Minister maintained that changing officials would not influence the final election results, but he warned that partisan actions by independent bodies pose a danger to fair play. For now, all eyes are on Mr. Sai Kumar as he leads the state's civil service through this high-pressure transition period.

# HC CANCELS PONDA ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION PLANS

**PANAJI**

The Bombay High Court delivered a landmark ruling by declaring the Election Commission of India's notification for the Ponda Assembly bye-election "null and void." This decision effectively cancels the voting that was scheduled to take place.

The legal challenge was brought forward by two local voters who questioned the necessity of the poll. The seat had become vacant following the death of former Goa minister Ravi Naik in October last year. While the Election Commission had already set the dates for voting and counting, the court agreed with the petitioners that the election was legally unnecessary at this stage.

At the heart of the case was a specific rule in the Representation of the People Act. The law states that a byelection is not mandatory if the remaining term of the Legislative Assembly is less than one year. The petitioners argued that since the current Assembly is nearing the end of its five-year cycle, any newly elected representative would only hold office for a few months. They suggested that holding a full-scale election for such a short period would be a waste of resources.Justices Valmiki Menezes and Amit Jamsandekar of the Goa bench upheld this view, bringing the election process to a sudden halt. The ruling provides a sense of clarity for the residents of Ponda, who will now wait for the general state elections instead of heading to the polls this week.

# Voters turn up early for Karnataka by-polls

**BAGALKOT**

Enthusiasm marked the early hours in Karnataka as voters headed to the booths for crucial by-elections. In the morning, Bagalkot reported a strong turnout of 27.83 percent, while Davanagere South saw 22.01 percent of its eligible voters cast their ballots. These elections were organized following the sad passing of veteran Congress leaders H.Y. Meti and Shamanur Shivashankarappa.The atmosphere at polling stations was vibrant, with young voters notably seen lining up at "pink booths" in Bagalkot. For the ruling Congress party, these elections are a major test of strength as they fight to keep their hold on both seats. Meanwhile, the BJP is working hard to flip these constituencies, hoping to capitalize on recent leadership debates within the rival party.The battle is also a family affair. In both regions, the Congress has placed its trust in the families of the late MLAs. Umesh Meti, son of H.Y. Meti, is contesting in Bagalkot, while Samarth Mallikarjun, grandson of Shivashankarappa, is running in Davanagere South. They are facing tough competition from BJP's Veerabhadrayya Charantimath and newcomer Srinivas T. Dasakariyappa.

# Court keeps fugitive tag on arms dealer

**NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court dealt a major blow to UK-based arms consultant Sanjay Bhandari by upholding his status as a "Fugitive Economic Offender." Justice Neena Bansal Krishna dismissed Bhandari's appeal, agreeing with a lower court's decision that he has deliberately avoided facing the law in India.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has long pursued Bhandari, claiming he hid over ₹100 crore in assets abroad. Under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, this ruling is a powerful tool for the government. It allows officials to move forward with seizing his properties both in India and overseas. The ED argued that the law's main goal is to force people accused of major financial crimes to return home and stand trial.Bhandari's legal team, led by senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, tried to block the move. They argued that being labeled a fugitive strips a person of their legal rights and would lead to the immediate loss of his belongings.

**OP SUCESSFUL**

# *Punjab cops break up foreign-backed terror plot*

**AMRITSAR**

"

In a major victory for public safety, the Punjab police dismantled a dangerous terror module backed by the ISI and Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). Working alongside central agencies, teams from Amritsar and Gurdaspur arrested two men linked to a handler based abroad. The operation successfully stopped a plan aimed at creating chaos and disturbing the peace across the state.

The scale of the threat was revealed through the chilling items recovered during the raid. Police seized five hand grenades, specialized detonators, and a kilogram of high explosives packed with nails to cause maximum harm. They also found high-tech tools, including a timer with coding systems and a walkie-talkie. According to Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav, these materials suggest the group was preparing for a series of high-impact attacks.

The investigation is now moving quickly to uncover who else was involved. Police are tracing the "forward and backward linkages" of the module to find local supporters and more details about their foreign handlers. A formal case has been registered at the Kalanaur Police Station under the Explosive Substances Act.DGP Yadav took to social media to reassure the public, stating that the force remains fully committed to protecting the people of Punjab.

This successful bust is seen as a significant blow to those trying to revive militancy from outside India's borders. For now, security remains tight as officers continue to hunt for any remaining members of the network.

## QUICK READ

### Britain deploys naval forces to counter Russian submarine

**London**

United Kingdom deployed military vessels earlier this year to counter potential threats from Russia, amid concerns that Russian submarines could target critical undersea infrastructure. Defence Secretary John Healey confirmed the operation on Thursday, highlighting efforts to safeguard cables and pipelines in sensitive maritime zones. According to Healey, Russian submarines operated for more than a month in and around British waters, raising alarms over possible covert activities aimed at damaging key infrastructure such as undersea communication cables and energy pipelines. These installations are vital for global connectivity and energy security, making them potential targets during heightened geopolitical tensions. British authorities believe that Moscow may have attempted to exploit global distractions.

### Brazil to release $1.37 bn from workers' fund to ease household debt

**Sau Poulo**

The government of Brazil is set to release 7 billion reais (approximately $1.37 billion) from its workers' severance fund to support millions of citizens, according to local media reports. The move is aimed at reducing household debt and providing financial relief to workers across the country. The plan, reported by O Globo, was outlined in an interview with Labour Minister Luiz Marinho. It is expected to benefit around 10 million workers by allowing them to access funds from the FGTS, a system traditionally reserved for specific situations. The initiative forms part of a broader economic package being developed by the government to address rising household debt levels and improve financial stability among working families.

# 'Israeli strikes on Lebanon a threat to ceasefire, talks'

**TEHRAN**

Pezeshkian warned that continued military actions by Israel risk rendering negotiations meaningless at a time when efforts are being made to stabilise the region. He stressed that adherence to ceasefire agreements is essential for maintaining trust between parties and preventing further escalation.

His remarks come in the wake of a major escalation in hostilities, as Israel carried out its heaviest airstrikes on Lebanon since the latest round of conflict with Hezbollah began last month. According to reports, the strikes resulted in the deaths of more than 250 people, significantly increasing concerns about civilian casualties and humanitarian conditions.

The Iranian President reiterated that Tehran would not abandon Lebanon, highlighting the country's longstanding political and strategic support for the Lebanese population. He noted that such attacks not only endanger innocent lives but also undermine international efforts aimed at reducing tensions through dialogue and negotiation.

Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday strongly condemned recent Israeli strikes on Lebanon, stating that the attacks violate the existing ceasefire agreement and could derail ongoing diplomatic efforts.

Observers believe that the latest escalation could further complicate the already fragile security situation in the Middle East. The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has historically carried the risk of expanding into a broader regional confrontation, particularly with the involvement of external actors.

Pezeshkian also emphasised that violations of ceasefire agreements weaken the credibility of diplomatic channels and reduce the chances of achieving a lasting peace. He called for restraint and urged all parties to respect international norms and agreements designed to prevent further bloodshed.

Meanwhile, the international community has expressed growing concern over the intensifying violence, with calls for immediate de-escalation and renewed diplomatic engagement. Analysts warn that if the current trajectory continues, it could trigger wider instability across the region, affecting not only neighbouring countries but also global geopolitical dynamics.

# Mitsui OSK Lines awaits clearance to move vessels near Hormuz

**TOKYO**

Speaking in an interview, Jotaro Tamura, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, said the company is keen to restart operations but remains cautious due to unresolved security concerns in the region. He noted that although a two-week ceasefire was agreed earlier this week, there is still no clear indication that Iran has lifted its blockade of the crucial maritime route.

Tamura emphasised that the implementation of the ceasefire in the waters surrounding the Strait of Hormuz remains uncertain. He stated that the company must first confirm that safety risks have been reduced to acceptable levels before allowing its vessels to transit the area. Additionally, the firm is awaiting official direction from the Japanese government, which is closely monitoring the evolving geopolitical situation.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical oil transit chokepoints, and any disruption has immediate consequences for global energy markets and supply chains. The ongoing tensions have already caused significant delays, with several vessels stranded in the Gulf region.

Japan-based shipping giant Mitsui O.S.K. Lines is preparing to resume movement of its vessels stranded near the Strait of Hormuz, but will proceed only after ensuring safe passage and receiving guidance from the Japan government.

Earlier this month, three Mitsui O.S.K. Lines tankers, including one liquefied natural gas carrier and two liquefied petroleum gas vessels, successfully crossed the strait. These were among the first Japan-linked ships to navigate the route since the conflict began. However, Tamura declined to provide further details on those operations, while confirming that multiple vessels remain in the Gulf awaiting clearance.

Tamura, who assumed his current leadership role on April 1, also reassured that the company has secured sufficient fuel oil supplies to sustain operations through the end of May. This preparedness is expected to help mitigate immediate operational risks while the situation in the region continues to unfold.

Industry analysts note that shipping companies worldwide are exercising caution, as the evolving security dynamics in the Strait of Hormuz continue to influence global trade and energy flows.

*Russia has designated the prominent human rights organisation Memorial as an extremist movement, according to a ruling delivered by the country's Supreme Court.*

# Russia declares Memorial extremist in latest crackdown

**MOSCOW**

The ruling, reported by TASS, was issued during a closed-door hearing, raising concerns among observers about transparency and due process.

By labelling Memorial as extremist, authorities now have broad legal grounds to prosecute individuals associated with the organisation, including those who support its activities or share its published materials.

Memorial, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in documenting historical injustices and defending human rights, strongly criticised the move. In a statement issued shortly before the verdict, the group said the case was intended to silence dissent and intimidate civil society across the country. It added that the outcome of the proceedings had been widely anticipated.

Founded in the late 1980s during the final years of the Soviet Union, Memorial has played a crucial role in documenting political repression and preserving the memory of victims of state violence. Its research spans from the era of Josef Stalin to modern-day Russia, highlighting abuses and advocating for accountability.

The latest ruling builds on earlier actions taken by Russian authorities against the organisation. In December 2021, two of Memorial's key branches were banned on allegations that they had justified extremism and terrorism. The group dismissed those accusations as baseless, arguing that its work has always focused on historical documentation and the protection of human rights.

Analysts view the extremist designation as a powerful legal tool that could further restrict independent voices within Russia. It allows for criminal penalties not only against members of the organisation but also against individuals who engage with or promote its work.

The move is widely seen as part of a broader effort by the Russian government to tighten control over public discourse, particularly in the context of heightened political tensions following recent geopolitical developments. Human rights advocates warn that such measures could have a chilling effect on civil society, limiting freedom of expression and reducing space for independent activism.

# 4 migrants dead in channel crossing attempt near Calais

**PARIS**

At least four migrants lost their lives after attempting to board an inflatable dinghy to cross the English Channel from France to United Kingdom, authorities confirmed on Thursday.

The tragedy occurred off the coast near Calais, highlighting the ongoing dangers faced by migrants seeking to reach Britain.

According to local officials, the incident took place early in the morning when a group of around 30 migrants entered the water between the beaches of Equihen and Ecault to board a small inflatable dinghy. The group reportedly encountered difficulties while attempting to climb aboard, leading to chaos in the water.

Local mayor Christian Fourcroy, who was briefed by emergency services, said the situation quickly spiralled out of control. Two women and two men were confirmed dead after struggling in the water. A fifth individual remains in critical condition, raising fears that the death toll could increase.

Emergency response teams launched a rescue operation shortly after the incident was reported. Authorities initially indicated that the dinghy may have sunk, but later clarified that the vessel continued its journey toward Britain after moving into deeper waters.

The incident underscores the growing risks associated with irregular migration across the Channel. Over the past year, human traffickers have increasingly relied on inflatable boats, often referred to as taxi boats, to transport migrants. These vessels typically move along the northern coasts of France and Belgium, picking up passengers from beaches in an effort to evade law enforcement.

Such methods have made crossings more unpredictable and dangerous, as migrants are often required to wade into cold and rough waters before boarding overcrowded and fragile boats. Rescue agencies and local authorities have repeatedly warned about the life-threatening conditions involved in these journeys.

The English Channel remains one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, further increasing the risks for small, overcrowded vessels. Despite intensified patrols and crackdowns on trafficking networks, attempts to cross the Channel continue, driven by desperation and the hope of reaching safer or more stable living conditions. Officials have reiterated calls for stronger international cooperation to address human trafficking and prevent further loss of life in such perilous crossings.

# Hungary's Tisza Party leads ahead of crucial parliamentary Election

**BUDAPEST**

Hungary's opposition Tisza Party has taken a significant lead over Prime Minister Viktor Orban's ruling Fidesz ahead of the upcoming parliamentary election scheduled for Sunday. The latest opinion poll suggests a potentially historic shift in the country's political landscape. According to a survey conducted by the Idea Institute, Tisza holds the support of 50 percent of decided voters, compared to 37 percent backing Fidesz. The findings indicate growing momentum for the opposition party, which is led by Peter Magyar, a former government insider who has emerged as a key challenger to Orban's long-standing leadership. The election represents the most serious test for Orban in his 16 years in power. Known for his nationalist policies and strong political control, Orban has dominated Hungarian politics for over a decade.

# Funding shortfall threatens lifesaving aid for Sudanese refugees in Chad

**CHAD**

More than one million refugees from Sudan risk losing access to essential aid, including food and water, due to a major funding gap, according to two United Nations agencies. The warning highlights the growing humanitarian crisis in neighbouring Chad, where over 1.3 million displaced Sudanese have sought refuge.

The crisis stems from the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which began in April 2023 between the national army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The violence has forced millions to flee their homes, with many crossing into Chad under dire conditions. A significant number of refugees are survivors of mass killings and famine, particularly from the Darfur region.

In a joint statement, the World Food Programme and the UNHCR warned that they face a funding shortfall of approximately $428 million. Without immediate financial support from donors, both agencies say they will be forced to scale back critical assistance programs in the coming months.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, the World Food Programme's country director in Chad, stressed that the lack of resources is already limiting the ability to provide adequate food supplies. She warned that insufficient aid could push vulnerable populations into extreme coping mechanisms, including reducing meals, selling essential belongings, or taking dangerous risks to survive.

The agencies did not specify which donors had reduced contributions, but UNHCR has previously indicated that cuts in foreign aid from the United States have significantly contributed to the funding gap. Despite this, both Sudan and Chad are expected to be among 17 countries slated to receive a combined $2 billion in US aid in 2026.

Humanitarian organisations have raised alarm over the potential consequences of reduced aid, noting that food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks could worsen rapidly without sustained support. Camps hosting refugees are already under immense pressure, with limited infrastructure and resources struggling to meet growing demand.

## SU DO KU

**Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?**

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Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

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Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

RIGHT TO DEFEND

# *Kremlin defends Naval escort of sanctioned tankers*

**MOSCOW**

Russia has asserted its right to defend its maritime interests after reports that a Russian navy frigate escorted sanctioned tankers through the English Channel.

The development has added to rising tensions between Moscow and the United Kingdom over maritime security and sanctions enforcement.

According to a report by The Telegraph, a Russian navy frigate, Admiral Grigorovich, escorted two tankers the Russian-flagged Universal and the Cameroon-flagged Enigma through the English Channel. Both vessels are reportedly under sanctions imposed by the United Kingdom, raising concerns about potential violations and enforcement challenges.

Responding to the report, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Russia had observed repeated incidents of what it described as piracy in international waters. He argued that such actions had negatively impacted Russia's economic interests and justified the need for protective measures.

Peskov emphasised that Moscow considers itself fully entitled to ensure the safety of its shipping and would take necessary steps to safeguard its vessels. He suggested that recent maritime incidents have created an environment where Russia must act proactively to defend its trade routes and commercial operations.

The remarks come amid growing friction between Russia and Western nations over sanctions and maritime enforcement. Last month, Keir Starmer stated that he had authorised British forces to board and detain Russian ships in UK waters as part of efforts to disrupt networks believed to be circumventing sanctions.

Analysts note that the reported naval escort signals a more assertive Russian posture in protecting its shipping interests, particularly in key international waterways. The English Channel, one of the world's busiest maritime routes, has become an area of heightened scrutiny as geopolitical tensions spill into commercial shipping lanes.

The situation highlights the increasing overlap between economic sanctions and maritime security, raising concerns about the potential for miscalculation or confrontation at sea. Observers warn that continued escalation could complicate international shipping operations and further strain diplomatic relations between Russia and Western powers.

As both sides adopt firmer stances, the risk of incidents in critical waterways remains a growing concern for global trade and security.

# Gavaskar backs Miller's intent despite DC's narrow loss to GT

**NEW DELHI**

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has come out in support of David Miller following Delhi Capitals' heartbreaking one-run loss to Gujarat Titans in a thrilling IPL encounter, stating that the batter's intent could not be questioned despite the outcome.

Chasing a stiff target of 211, Delhi Capitals needed two runs off the final two deliveries. Miller, who had been striking the ball confidently, chose not to take a single off Prasidh Krishna on the penultimate delivery, backing himself to finish the game with a boundary. However, he failed to connect on the final ball and could only manage a scrambled single. A sharp direct hit from Jos Buttler resulted in a run-out, sealing a dramatic win for Gujarat.

Gavaskar noted that Miller's decision reflected a batter's confidence under pressure. "He was backing himself and had been timing the ball well. You cannot fault that kind of intent," he said, adding that the execution ultimately made the difference. He also credited Krishna for delivering a well-directed slower bouncer at a crucial moment, making it difficult for Miller to score.

The former skipper, however, stressed the importance of game awareness in such high-pressure scenarios. Drawing a parallel with the famous tied Test between India and Australia in 1986 in Chennai, Gavaskar highlighted how Ravi Shastri showed composure by taking a crucial single at the right time to level the scores.

"In hindsight, a single might have been the better option, especially after the earlier run taken by Kuldeep," Gavaskar noted, pointing to the fine margins that often decide tight matches.

Meanwhile, former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen praised Rashid Khan for his match-winning spell, where he picked up three wickets while conceding just 17 runs. Pietersen, however, felt Gujarat's bowling unit as a whole was not at its best, despite managing to clinch a crucial victory.

The match once again underlined how composure and split-second decisions can define the outcome in the IPL's high-stakes contests.

# GT escape thriller as Rahul, Miller efforts go in vain

## Late drama and missed chances define one-run IPL classic between the teams

**NEW DELHI**

A pulsating IPL encounter saw Gujarat Titans pull off a dramatic one-run victory over Delhi Capitals, as valiant efforts from KL Rahul and David Miller ultimately went in vain in a last-ball finish.

Set a daunting target of 211, Delhi Capitals mounted a spirited chase led by Rahul, who produced a sublime 92 off 52 balls. Blending elegance with aggression, Rahul anchored the innings and kept his side in contention despite regular wickets. Pathum Nissanka provided early impetus with a brisk 41, helping DC to a strong Powerplay.

However, the turning point came during the middle overs when Rashid Khan delivered a game-changing spell. The leg-spinner claimed 3 for 17, including a crucial double strike that shifted momentum back towards Gujarat. His tight lines and variations choked the scoring rate at a critical phase.

Earlier, Gujarat Titans posted a competitive 210 for 4, riding on captain Shubman Gill's composed 70 and a fluent 55 from Washington Sundar. Jos Buttler added impetus with a quickfire 52, attacking from the outset to set the tone.

Despite losing Rahul at a crucial juncture, Miller reignited hopes with a late assault after returning from injury. With 36 needed off two overs, he took apart the bowling to bring the equation down to two runs off two balls. In a dramatic twist, Miller declined a single on the penultimate delivery, backing himself to finish the game.

But Prasidh Krishna held his nerve with a well-executed slower bouncer, and a sharp direct hit from Buttler caught Kuldeep Yadav short, sealing a memorable win for Gujarat.

The contest highlighted the fine margins of T20 cricket, where a single decision can alter the course of a match, leaving Delhi to rue what might have been.

# India storm into compound women's final at Archery World Cup Stage 1

**PUEBLA**

India's compound women's team delivered a composed and clinical performance to enter the final of the Archery World Cup Stage 1, assuring the country of at least a silver medal in the prestigious international event.

The top-ranked Indian trio of V. Jyothi Surekha, Pragati and Madhura Dhamangaonkar showcased remarkable consistency as they edged past Denmark and Turkey in closely contested knockout matches.

After receiving a first-round bye, India faced Denmark in the quarterfinals and held their nerve to clinch a narrow 235-234 victory. The semifinal against Turkey was another tense affair, but the Indian team once again rose to the occasion, securing a 233-230 win to book their place in the summit clash.

With this result, India is now set to face United States women's archery team in the final, where they will aim to convert their assured medal into gold.

Meanwhile, in the compound men's section, the Indian team comprising Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma and Sahil Jadhav exited in the quarterfinals after a narrow 232-234 defeat to Mexico.

In the recurve category, Indian archers put up a steady performance in the qualification rounds. Among men, B. Dhiraj led the contingent with a 10th-place finish, followed by Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das.

# PSG outclass Liverpool 2-0 to tighten grip on Q/F tie

**PARIS**

Defending champions Paris Saint-Germain produced a commanding display to defeat Liverpool FC 2-0 in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League quarter-final, taking a strong step towards the semi-finals.

Goals from Desire Doue and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia on either side of halftime sealed the victory, although PSG could have extended their advantage further after creating numerous scoring opportunities.

The hosts started brightly, controlling possession and dictating the tempo against a cautious Liverpool side. PSG's early pressure paid off when Doue opened the scoring with a deflected strike, giving the home team a deserved lead.

Liverpool, still reeling from a heavy domestic defeat, adopted a defensive approach with a back-three setup and key attacker Mohamed Salah initially on the bench. However, they struggled to cope with PSG's fluid attacking play and relentless pressing.

**Doue and Kvaratskhelia shine as PSG dominate Liverpool in Paris clash.**

After the break, PSG continued to push forward, and their dominance was rewarded when Kvaratskhelia produced a moment of individual brilliance. The winger embarked on a dazzling solo run before calmly slotting the ball past the goalkeeper to double the lead.

Under manager Luis Enrique, PSG showcased a balanced performance, blending patient build-up with sudden bursts of attacking intensity. Despite their superiority, the French side squandered several chances that could have all but ended the tie.

Liverpool had limited opportunities to respond and lacked their usual attacking sharpness, managing only sporadic threats against a well-organised PSG defence.

The result leaves Liverpool with a challenging task ahead in the second leg at Anfield, where they will need a strong comeback to stay in the competition. PSG, on the other hand, will head into the return fixture with confidence, aiming to protect their lead and continue their title defence.

The match highlighted PSG's attacking depth and control, while Liverpool were left searching for answers after another disappointing performance on the big stage.

*IPL penalises GT skipper after last-ball victory against DC clash*

# Gill fined ₹12 lakh for slow over-rate despite GT's thrilling win

**NEW DELHI**

Shubman Gill, captain of Gujarat Titans, has been fined ₹12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during his team's nail-biting Indian Premier League clash against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The penalty came despite Gujarat Titans securing their first win of the IPL 2026 season in dramatic fashion, edging past Delhi Capitals by just one run in a high-scoring encounter. According to an official IPL media advisory, the fine was imposed under Article 2.22 of the league's Code of Conduct, which deals with minimum over-rate offences.

"As this was the team's first offence of the season, Gill has been fined ₹12 lakh," the statement said, indicating that stricter penalties could follow for repeated violations.

While the win provided much-needed momentum for the Titans, the over-rate violation slightly overshadowed the achievement, highlighting the importance of maintaining discipline alongside performance in the league. Gujarat Titans will next face Lucknow Super Giants in Lucknow on Sunday, aiming to build on their winning start. Meanwhile, Delhi Capitals will travel south to take on Chennai Super Kings in Chennai, looking to bounce back from the heartbreak.

Lucknow Super Giants (182/7) beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 3 wickets in the IPL 2026 match at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday.

# Siddi wrestlers rise against odds in Karnataka

**BENGALURU**

In the quiet towns of Uttara Kannada, stories of resilience and identity continue to shape the lives of Karnataka's Siddi athletes, who are now making their mark on the national wrestling stage despite enduring years of social prejudice.

For many in the Siddi community, discrimination has been a lived reality. Juliana Pedru Fernandes recalls facing racial slurs growing up, experiences that left deep scars but also forged resilience. Today, that strength finds expression in the achievements of her daughter, Princeta Siddi, who recently clinched gold in the 68kg category at the Khelo India Tribal Games. Princeta was not alone in her success. Manisha Juava Siddi and Rohan Doddamani also secured gold medals, while Shalina Siddi earned a silver, underlining the growing presence of Siddi athletes in competitive wrestling.

Despite their achievements, the journey has been far from easy. Many of these athletes come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, often travelling in unreserved train compartments and training with limited resources.

# *Atletico stun Barcelona 2-0 to seize Champions League advantage*

**BARCELONA**

Atletico Madrid delivered a clinical performance to defeat FC Barcelona 2-0 in their UEFA Champions League quarter-final first leg, capitalising on a red card to take firm control of the tie at Camp Nou.

Despite Barcelona enjoying the majority of possession, Atletico's disciplined defence and lethal counter-attacking proved decisive in a high-stakes European clash. The game turned just before halftime when young defender Pau Cubarsi was sent off for bringing down Giuliano Simeone as the last man, leaving the hosts with ten players.

From the resulting free kick, Julian Alvarez produced a moment of brilliance, curling a stunning effort from 25 metres into the top corner in first-half stoppage time to silence the packed stadium.

Barcelona attempted to respond after the break, with Marcus Rashford coming close as his free kick rattled the crossbar. However, Atletico remained compact and composed, frustrating the home side's attacking efforts. The visitors doubled their advantage in the 70th minute when a precise cross from Mateo Ruggeri found Alexander Sorloth, who made no mistake with a close-range volley to put the result beyond doubt.

Under the guidance of Diego Simeone, Atletico executed their game plan to perfection, combining defensive solidity with clinical finishingto secure a crucial away victory.

The result leaves Barcelona with a daunting task in the second leg, needing a significant turnaround to keep their Champions League hopes alive. Atletico, meanwhile, will head into the return fixture full of confidence as they aim to book a place in the semi-finals.

The match underlined Atletico's tactical discipline and ability to capitalise on key moments, while Barcelona were left to rue missed chances and the costly red card that shifted momentum irreversibly.

# Medvedev meltdown as Berrettini cruises in Monte-Carlo Masters rout

**MONTE-CARLO**

Daniil Medvedev endured a nightmare outing at the Monte-Carlo Masters, suffering a shocking 0-6, 0-6 defeat to Matteo Berrettini in the Round of 32, with his frustration boiling over in dramatic fashion.

The one-sided contest lasted just 49 minutes, during which Medvedev struggled to find any rhythm. The Russian committed five double faults, landed only 36 per cent of his first serves, and managed to win just 17 of the 67 points played — a stark contrast to Berrettini's near-flawless performance. Medvedev's frustration was evident early in the match. Trailing in the opening set, he repeatedly smashed his racquet on the clay, striking it multiple times before eventually discarding the damaged equipment into a courtside bin. The outburst drew attention from fans and pundits alike, highlighting the mental toll of the lopsided defeat. Former world No.1 doubles player Jamie Murray criticised the incident, calling it "shocking" and suggesting Medvedev would likely feel embarrassed afterward.

## QUICK READ

### Private equity into Indian real estate jumps 66% to $1.2 bn in Q1

**New Delhi**

Private equity investment into India's real estate sector rose 66 per cent year on year (YoY) to $1.2 billion in Q1 2026, a report said on Thursday. The report from Savills India said office assets accounted for 41 per cent of total investment volume in Q1 2026 with the capital concentrated in Gurugram and Pune, while the hospitality sector captured 17 per cent of the real estate sector. Domestic investors dominated equity inflows, contributing $817 million, or 66 per cent of the quarter's total. Significant inflows into the hospitality sector during the quarter and other emerging asset classes reflect a continued shift towards portfolio diversification, the report said.

### Sensex, Nifty fall as oil rally breaks 5-day winning streak

**Mumbai**

Indian equity benchmarks declined on Thursday, snapping their five-day gaining streak, as rising oil prices and uncertainty around the US-Iran ceasefire weighed on investor sentiment. The Nifty closed 0.93 per cent lower, falling 222.25 points to settle at 23,775.10. The Sensex also slipped sharply, ending 1.20 per cent or 931.25 points down at 76,631.65. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the intraday charts showed price action remained range-bound with a slight negative bias, marked by the formation of lower highs, indicating sustained selling pressure throughout the session.

### India ranks 4th globally in tech funding; early-stage investments jump 20%

**New Delhi**

Tech funding in India stood at $11.7 billion in FY 2025-26, an increase of 20 per cent compared to $9.7 billion raised in FY2023-24 amid strong early-stage momentum and a surge in IPO activity, according to a new report. As per Tracxn analysis, India ranked as the fourth-highest funded country globally during FY 2025-26, behind the United States, the United Kingdom and China, while staying ahead of Germany and France. It further stated that funding trends showed strong traction across key stages.

# India a 'safe anchor' amid global turbulence: PS to PM

'The country has managed to improve its economic standing in measurable ways, showcasing a unique ability to turn challenges into opportunities'

**NEW DELHI**

India has consistently proven its ability to withstand global crises and emerge stronger, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Shaktikanta Das, said on Thursday.

Speaking at the AIMA National Leadership Conclave, Das emphasised that India's journey through multiple global disruptions reflects not just survival, but steady transformation and growth. He noted that during every major crisis, the country has managed to improve its economic standing in measurable ways, showcasing a unique ability to turn challenges into opportunities.

Das pointed out that the global economy is currently facing a phase of uncertainty, driven by geopolitical tensions, disruptions in supply chains, and uneven growth patterns across different regions. According to him, the risks to the global economy remain skewed towards the downside, making resilience and adaptability more crucial than ever.

Despite these challenges, India's economic performance has remained robust. Das highlighted that the country recorded a real Gross Domestic Product growth of 7.6 percent in the financial year 2026, while maintaining an average growth rate of 7.8 percent over the past five years. These figures underline the strength of India's economic fundamentals and its ability to sustain growth even in difficult times.

He attributed this resilience to several key factors, including macroeconomic stability, consistent and well-calibrated policy decisions, rapid infrastructure development, and strong domestic demand. Together, these elements have created a solid foundation that enables the economy to absorb shocks effectively.

Das also stressed the importance of controlling inflation, noting that rising prices disproportionately affect the poorer sections of society. Keeping inflation in check, he said, helps enhance consumer purchasing power and ensures overall economic stability.

Highlighting the government's approach, Das said India has adopted a balanced policy response during crises. Both fiscal and monetary measures were introduced when required and withdrawn in a timely manner to avoid excess liquidity or economic imbalances.

He further underscored the significance of ongoing structural changes in the economy, including rapid digitalisation, expansion of infrastructure, and growth in emerging sectors such as electronics and semiconductors, which are expected to drive future growth.

# Liquidity crisis hits Pak OMCs over unpaid claims

**NEW DELHI**

As per reports, oil marketing companies are grappling with unpaid price differential claims amounting to nearly Rs107 billion

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) in Pakistan are facing a severe liquidity crunch as billions in unpaid reimbursements remain pending.

Industry players have raised concerns over delays and shifting regulatory requirements.

As per reports, oil marketing companies are grappling with unpaid price differential claims amounting to nearly Rs107 billion. These claims arise when the government caps fuel prices below procurement costs, requiring authorities to compensate companies for the difference. However, delays in these reimbursements have forced companies to rely on borrowing, significantly increasing their financial burden.

Industry estimates indicate that an initial claim of approximately Rs27 billion, submitted in mid-March, has only been partially settled. Meanwhile, subsequent claims worth Rs70–80 billion remain entirely unpaid, leaving companies operating on extremely tight margins and struggling to maintain cash flow.

At the center of the dispute is the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority, which companies accuse of repeatedly altering documentation requirements instead of processing payments. Officials within the sector argue that the issue is not a lack of transparency, but rather the unpredictability of compliance procedures.

Each time companies attempt to meet the regulator's requirements, new conditions are introduced. These include detailed invoice-level reconciliations and repeated certifications from chief executives, chief financial officers, and auditors. A revised documentation format was reportedly issued as recently as Monday night, with no assurance that further changes will not follow.

Industry representatives have expressed frustration, noting that the constant changes effectively restart the process each time. Some audit firms are also hesitant to participate, as the requirements extend beyond standard audit practices, further complicating compliance.

The crisis may deepen if a proposal to withhold 10 percent of payments is implemented. This measure, linked to tax reconciliation with the Federal Board of Revenue, could lock up an additional Rs7.4 billion for up to two months, exacerbating the liquidity squeeze.

Experts warn that continued delays could disrupt fuel supply chains and weaken the operational capacity of oil marketing companies. Without timely resolution, the financial stress on the sector is likely to intensify, potentially impacting broader economic stability.

# BirlaNu Aerocon launches 'elements collection' blending strength with aesthetic design

**BENGALURU**

BirlaNu has unveiled its latest offering, The Elements Collection, a premium range of designer cement boards aimed at redefining modern architectural surfaces.

Announced in Bengaluru on Thursday, the new collection seeks to combine structural durability with timeless design inspired by nature.

The newly-launched Elements Collection is part of the company's Aerocon portfolio and represents a significant step forward in the evolution of building materials.

Designed to bridge the gap between performance and aesthetics, the collection draws inspiration from the fundamental forces of Earth, Water, and Air, reflecting a deeper connection with natural elements.

With changing preferences in architecture and interior design, BirlaNu aims to address the growing demand for materials that not only provide strength but also elevate the visual appeal of spaces. The company emphasised that in today's context, where homes are increasingly seen as personal sanctuaries, surfaces must go beyond functionality and contribute to the overall design narrative.

The development of the collection involved an extensive collaborative process with more than 200 architects and interior designers. This immersive engagement helped shape patterns and textures that align with a nature-focused design philosophy. The resulting surfaces are intended to evoke organic and timeless aesthetics rather than merely decorative finishes.

According to Y Srinivasa Rao, Chief Business Officer of Walls at BirlaNu, the Elements Collection represents more than just a new product line. He described it as an opportunity for architects and homeowners to reimagine surfaces as creative canvases. By integrating the durability of Aerocon materials with nature-inspired designs, the collection enables the creation of spaces that are both resilient and visually appealing.

The launch also underscores BirlaNu's broader commitment to innovation and sustainability in the building materials sector. As demand grows for environmentally conscious and aesthetically refined construction solutions, the company aims to position itself at the forefront of this transformation.

Industry experts believe that such design-led innovations are likely to influence future trends in architecture, encouraging a shift toward materials that balance performance with artistic expression.

# S. Korea seeks clarity on Hormuz passage as Iran issues fresh warnings

**SEOUL**

South Korea has not received any official request from Iran regarding transit fees for ships passing through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Speaking at a regular energy supply briefing, Yang Ghi-wuk, Deputy Minister for Trade, Industry and Resource Security, stated that there has been no formal communication from Iran demanding payment for passage through the Strait of Hormuz. His remarks were in response to media reports suggesting that Iran might seek transit fees in alternative currencies such as cryptocurrency or Chinese yuan.

Yang clarified that it is still too early to determine whether Iran will impose such charges or how the international community would react if such a move materialises. However, he cautioned that any additional costs could have a direct impact on domestic fuel prices, potentially increasing them by up to one percent.

The situation remains fluid as South Korea continues to monitor developments in the region. The country's foreign ministry is reportedly attempting to establish communication with Iranian authorities to better understand the status of maritime operations and ensure safe passage for vessels. However, Yang noted that no significant progress has been reported so far.

Amid these uncertainties, South Korea is proactively working to secure alternative crude oil supplies to safeguard its energy needs. According to the official, approximately 50 million barrels of crude oil have been secured for April, while 60 million barrels have been arranged for May. These figures represent around 60 percent and 70 percent, respectively, of the country's average monthly import requirement of 80 million barrels.

Efforts are also underway to ensure stable supply chains for essential industrial materials and daily-use commodities. The government has confirmed that supplies of key resources such as helium and ethylene gas remain largely unaffected at present.

The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit chokepoints, continues to be closely watched by global markets. Any disruption or policy shift affecting the route could have significant implications for international trade and energy prices.

# Fresh $600 million borrowing flags Pakistan's fragile finances

**ISLAMABAD**

Pakistan's economy remains under pressure, as its decision to secure a $600 million short-term loan from Standard Chartered Bank has once again highlighted the country's fragile external financing position amid mounting.

According to an Asian News Post report, the loan is priced at SOFR plus 2.6 per cent translating to an interest rate of around 6.3 per cent aimed at supporting foreign exchange reserves, which have come under strain due to a shortfall in expected foreign commercial inflows.

Drawn against energy imports, the facility comes at a time when Pakistan has received only $54 million of the $3.1 billion it had budgeted under foreign commercial loans for the current fiscal year, the report noted.

It further pointed out that of the planned $26 billion in total external borrowing, only $5.7 billion has materialised so far, including disbursements from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At the same time, the country recently repaid a $700 million loan to the China Development Bank, with foreign exchange reserves declining to $15.5 billion (as of February 10).

The government is expected to seek refinancing of this amount in June, along with another $1 billion commercial loan.

According to the report, analysts have termed budgetary fiction a key factor driving the financial imbalance.

Despite plans to raise $400 million through sovereign bond issuance this fiscal year, no such transaction has taken place so far.

Similarly, a proposed $250 million Panda bond issue has seen little progress.

The broader macroeconomic backdrop remains challenging. Exports have declined by 7 per cent in the first seven months of the fiscal year, while foreign direct investment has dropped over 41 per cent to $981 million.

The government is targeting foreign exchange reserves of $18 billion by June, banking on improved remittances, fresh borrowing, and continued deposits worth $12.5 billion from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and China.

Economists have also flagged concerns over rising public debt and fiscal slippages. Pakistan's public debt has reached around PKR 78.5 trillion, or 68 per cent of GDP, while interest payments have surged 43 per cent to PKR 6.4 trillion.

# Youth unemployment emerging as major problem in China

**NEW DELHI**

Youth unemployment is emerging as a major problem in China which is raising a question mark on the Asian giant's economic miracle.

World Bank estimates put youth unemployment at about 17.7 per cent in 2025, reflecting slower job creation amid an increasing number of university graduates entering the labour market.

Official data released in 2025 showed unemployment among those aged 16–24 rising to 16.9 per cent. Social media amplified the issue when a PhD graduate revealed he had turned to food delivery work, while a gas company announced it was hiring graduates as meter readers, according to an article in Eurasia Review.

Each year, millions of new graduates join the job market, intensifying competition. In 2026 alone, China expects more than 12 million university graduates, prompting policymakers to look to new sectors such as artificial intelligence for job creation. Yet many graduates end up in temporary or low-paying jobs unrelated to their studies. Others rely on family support or delay major life decisions such as marriage, home ownership or starting a family, the article states.

Prominent economist Gao Shanwen at a recent investor conference described China's young people as lifeless, remarks later scrubbed from the internet by censors. China is now full of vibrant old people, lifeless young people and middle-aged people in despair. Young people are tightening their belts and eating noodles with the lights off, the article cites Gao as saying.

The article further states that across cities from Beijing to Chengdu, youngsters are seeing a sharp decline in purchasing power, uncertain employment prospects and an economic environment where the government increasingly relies on subsidies to stimulate consumption. For many young Chinese, the promise of prosperity that once accompanied education and hard work now feels increasingly distant.

**E-COMMERCE BOOM**

# *India e retail sector crosses $65 bn*

**NEW DELHI**

India's online retail market reached approximately $65–66 billion in 2025 in gross merchandise value (GMV) and is projected to grow over 20% annually to reach $170–180 billion by 2030, capturing roughly one in ten retail dollars, a report said on Thursday.

The report from Bain and Company and Flipkart said e retail gross merchandise value grew 19–21 per cent in value terms.

Growth accelerated through the year, supported by improving macroeconomic conditions and consumer sentiment, the report said.

In 2025, private consumption growth rose from 8 per cent (2022–24) to 10.5 per cent, driven by GST cuts, income tax relief, easing inflation, and lower lending rates.

This momentum drove second-half growth of 22–24 per cent and an estimated 23–25 per cent growth in Q1 2026, reflecting a broader revival in consumption and discretionary spending.

Q-commerce (delivery in less than 30 minutes) has doubled annually over the past two years, reaching $10–11 billion GMV in 2025 and expected to reach $65–$70 billion by 2030, the report noted.

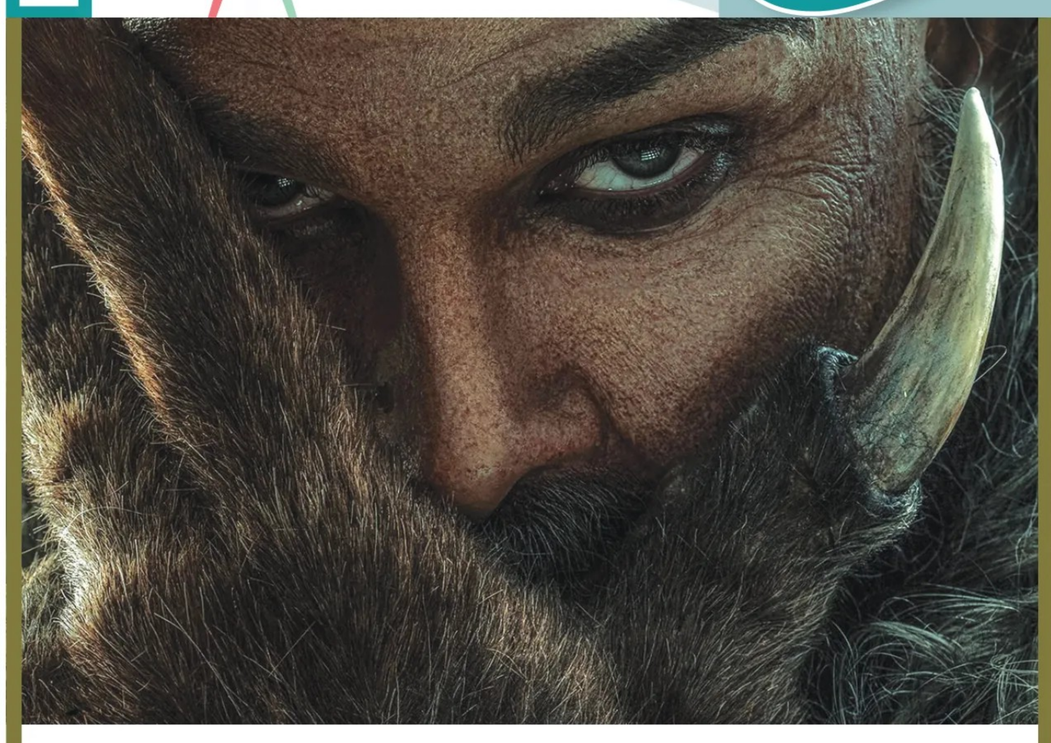
However, traditional e-retail will continue to anchor the overall e-retail market with 60-65 per cent share in 2030.

India is emerging as a critical global consumption engine, poised to capture 1 in 8 incremental consumption dollars over the next five years.

The shopper base more than doubled over the last five years to 290–300 million in 2025, supported by rapid seller ecosystem expansion and deeper geographic penetration.

Gen Z represented 40–45 per cent of e retail shoppers and contributed about half of incremental e-retail orders in 2025, with spend per shopper growing 2.5 times faster than other cohorts in metros.

Gen Z demonstrated distinct shopping preferences across categories like lifestyle, beauty and electronics such as influencer-led trend discovery on social media, immersive videos/feeds, and use of instant credit.



# Allu Arjun's 'RAAKA' sparks huge speculation

Allu Arjun's upcoming film, titled Raaka, has created a buzz among fans and movie enthusiasts. Directed by Kollywood sensation Atlee, this will mark Allu Arjun's 22nd film, and expectations are high, especially after the director's acclaimed work on Jawan with Shah Rukh Khan.

The title Raaka has sparked intense speculation. In Finnish, 'Raaka' means 'raw' or 'brutal,' suggesting a powerful, primal character. Film insiders believe Allu Arjun's character may be rugged, fierce, and unrefined.

The recently released first-look poster shows him with wounds on his forehead, a shaved head, a grizzled beard, and an intense gaze, evoking a warrior-like image. A wolf-like silhouette in the poster hints at a possible transformation, suggesting a primal, untamed force at play.

Some fans are also drawing parallels with the Hindi comic character 'Raka' from the Chacha Chaudhary series, who gained immortality through an elixir, fueling rumors that Allu Arjun's character could have a similar trait.

Others relate it to Hollywood's X-Men or the Tamil film I, where human-to-wolf transformations were central to the story.

The title is also familiar to older Hindi films, like Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai, but feels fresh for Telugu audiences.

With Allu Arjun's striking look, Atlee's direction, and a massive budget, fans are eager to uncover the true meaning behind Raaka. Until the movie releases, the mystery remains unsolved, keeping movie lovers on the edge of their seats.

# Cricket fever pushes huge action movie release

Fans of Ranveer Singh will have to wait a little longer to catch his latest hit, Dhurandhar: The Revenge, on their small screens. While the movie continues to smash records at the box office, its digital debut on the JioHotstar platform has reportedly been moved from mid-May to the first week of June.

The reason for the delay is simple, the Indian Premier League (IPL). Reports suggest that releasing a blockbuster during the final, high-stakes matches of the cricket tournament would be a risky move. With millions of viewers glued to their televisions for the IPL playoffs, the makers worry that the film might not get the undivided attention it deserves. By waiting until the cricket season ends, JioHotstar hopes to capture a massive audience looking for fresh entertainment.

This strategic "wait and watch" policy is becoming common in the streaming world. The platform wants to ensure that Dhurandhar becomes a digital sensation rather than getting lost in the noise of a cricket final. For the streaming giant, timing is everything when it comes to maximizing subscriptions and views. While fans might be disappointed by the extra few weeks of waiting, the film's strong performance in theaters means there is still plenty of time to catch the action on the big screen.

For now, the official confirmation from the makers is still pending, but all signs point to a June celebration for movie lovers.

JioHotstar

# SAMANTHA roots for big win for 'Dacoit'

Super star Samantha Ruth Prabhu has sent a wave of positivity through the film industry by throwing her full support behind the upcoming movie, Dacoit. As the film hit the theaters worldwide, Samantha shared a heartfelt message on social media, specifically praising the hard work of producer Supriya Yarlagadda.

In her post, Samantha expressed deep admiration for the dedication invested in the project, stating that "no one deserves a blockbuster more than Supriya." This public gesture has caught the attention of fans, as it shows a warm and respectful bond between the actress and the producer. Samantha didn't stop there, she also extended her best wishes to the lead pair, Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur, and encouraged her millions of followers to experience the film on the big screen. Dacoit marks the directorial debut of Shaneil Deo and is being released in both Telugu and Hindi to reach a national audience. The movie is a gritty, high-stakes drama that has already seen strong ticket sales during pre-bookings. With a powerful supporting cast including Prakash Raj and Anurag Kashyap, the film is one of the most talked-about releases of the week.

The music, composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, is already a hit, adding to the growing excitement. With Samantha's "lucky charm" endorsement and the buzz surrounding the fresh pairing of Sesh and Mrunal, the team is heading into Friday with high spirits and hopes for a massive opening day.

# STAR ALMOST QUIT BEFORE FINDING MASSIVE FAME

Hollywood sensation Jenna Ortega recently dropped a bombshell, revealing she nearly walked away from her acting career just before her big break. Long before she became a household name, the young star faced a period of deep uncertainty that almost led her to quit the industry for good.

As a teenager, Ortega struggled to bridge the gap between her early days on Disney and more serious, adult roles. After starring in shows like Stuck in the Middle, she found it difficult to convince casting directors that she had the range for mature projects.

The constant rejection left her questioning her future, leading to months of heavy discussions with her team about leaving professional acting behind.

"I didn't know what else I was going to do," Ortega admitted, recalling the stress of trying to redefine herself. She felt she had reached a dead end where her passion was fading under the pressure of the Hollywood grind.

Everything changed in 2019 when she landed the role of Ellie Alves in the Netflix hit You. Working alongside Penn Badgley reignited her spark. She described the experience as a turning point where she truly "loved it and had the best time," finally feeling at home in front of the camera again That decision to stay changed her life.

# Powerstar to join megastar for new film

The Telugu film industry is buzzing with excitement as "Megastar" Chiranjeevi prepares to launch his next massive project. Fresh off the record-breaking success of his latest hit, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, Chiranjeevi is teaming up once again with director Bobby Kolli. While fans are already eager for this reunion, a new rumor has set social media on fire, "Powerstar" Pawan Kalyan is expected to attend the film's official launch ceremony. The grand "pooja" event, which marks the traditional start of the movie, is scheduled to take place on April 11, 2026. Speculation about Pawan Kalyan's attendance grew after director Bobby Kolli shared a photo of his recent meeting with the actor-politician. If the brothers appear on stage together, it will be a historic moment for the "Mega" family and their millions of followers, who haven't seen them share a movie platform in quite some time.This upcoming film, tentatively titled Mega 158, is being produced by KVN Productions and is described as an intense gangster drama. It follows the duo's previous success, Waltair Veerayya, which was a massive fan favorite. Joining the cast is versatile actress Priyamani, with music set to be composed by the popular Thaman S. As the industry prepares for the launch, all eyes are on the guest list.

# SUPERSTAR RAJINIKANTH stays silent on troubled movie launch

Superstar Rajinikanth sparked significant curiosity after declining to comment on the ongoing release delays of the highly anticipated film, Jana Nayagan. While the veteran actor was open about his own upcoming projects, he drew a firm line when the conversation shifted toward the controversy surrounding the censor board. Currently, Rajinikanth is nearing the finish line for Jailer 2, an action-packed drama directed by Nelson. During a brief interaction with reporters, he confirmed that filming is in its final stages. Beyond movie updates, the actor took a moment to play the role of a concerned elder, delivering a heartfelt plea to the younger generation. He urged the youth to prioritize their education and physical health, while issuing a stern warning to stay far away from drugs and alcohol. However, the atmosphere turned noticeably quiet when a journalist asked for his thoughts on the release hurdles facing Jana Nayagan. The film has reportedly been stuck in a standoff with the Central Board of Film Certification. Rather than weighing in, Rajinikanth maintained a neutral stance, simply stating, "I don't want to answer that." Observers suggest the Superstar is likely avoiding unnecessary friction regarding a matter currently under official regulatory review.

# Young filmmaker takes regional storytelling to global stages

In a remarkable moment for Kannada cinema, a young filmmaker, Anooya Swamy, is taking regional storytelling to global platforms — first with a recognition at the Sundance Film Festival, and now with an official selection at the SXSW London Film Festival.

Anooya, a Master's student at New York University Tisch School of the Arts, represents a new generation of Indian filmmakers who are blending local narratives with global cinematic language. Her short film 'Pankaja' rooted deeply in Kannada culture, has steadily gained international attention for its storytelling and artistic expression.

Earlier this year, Pankaja was showcased and appreciated at Sundance in Park City, Utah—widely regarded as one of the most prestigious platforms for independent cinema in the world. Sundance is known for discovering groundbreaking voices and setting global trends in filmmaking. For an emerging filmmaker from India, especially working in a regional language like Kannada, gaining recognition here is both rare and highly competitive.

Building on that momentum, 'Pankaja' has now been selected for SXSW London, scheduled from June 1–6. SXSW (South by Southwest) is globally recognized not just as a film festival, but as a major cultural convergence of cinema, music, and technology. Its film program is known for spotlighting bold, original voices and innovative storytelling.

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